

HB 156 -- SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD STAMP ASSISTANCE

SPONSOR: Nance

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Senior Citizen Advocacy by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill authorizes the Family Support Division within the Department of Social Services to assist elderly individuals who qualify for the federal Food Stamp Program in obtaining supplemental food stamps. Subject to appropriations, households of one or two elderly individuals who are at least 65 years of age will be entitled to receive supplemental assistance.

Qualified households consisting of one eligible elderly individual will receive supplemental assistance; however, the benefit combined with the aid the individual receives under the federal program cannot exceed \$30 per month. Qualified households of two eligible elderly individuals cannot receive combined assistance exceeding \$60 per month.

The provisions of the bill will expire August 28, 2011.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$2,847,080 in FY 2010, \$2,751,120 in FY 2011, and \$458,520 in FY 2012. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the supplemental food stamp assistance is needed to help the elderly pay for groceries due to the rising food costs.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Nance; AARP-Missouri; and Patrice Donehue, Silver Haired Legislature.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.