

HCS HB 859 -- PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FROM CANADA

SPONSOR: Bruns (Jetton)

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

This substitute allows Missouri residents to participate in any current or future state program, policy, or practice permitting prescription drugs to be acquired from Canada.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say the bill enacts into law the memorandum of understanding between Missouri and Illinois allowing Missouri residents an alternative access to safe prescription drugs. An individual must have a prescription before they can obtain drugs from Canada.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Jetton; and Missouri Kidney Program-Renal Coalition.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that it is not necessary since many pharmaceutical companies have programs providing prescription drugs at a reduced rate for qualified individuals. Drugs that have been purchased from Canada are not as safe and effective as drugs regulated by the federal Food and Drug Administration. An imported drug may not contain the same active ingredients to make the drugs interchangeable; and drug shipments in the past have contained dangerous, dissolved, or illegal drugs.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Retailers Association; and Missouri Pharmacy Association.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill provided technical information.

Others testifying on the bill was Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

Dominic Lackey, Legislative Analyst