

HB 454 -- SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD STAMP ASSISTANCE

SPONSOR: Jetton

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Senior Citizens 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 appropriation, households comprised 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, 2009.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Greater than \$2,852,942 in FY 2008, Greater than \$3,101,668 in FY 2009, and Greater than \$543,038 in FY 2010. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there is a need for additional food stamp assistance for low-income elderly citizens. Increasing the assistance helps the low-income elderly live in their homes longer and keeps them healthier. Helping the low-income elderly is the morally right thing to do.

Testifying for the bill were Speaker Jetton; Missouri Association for Social Welfare; Missouri Alliance of Area Agencies on Aging; Silver Haired Legislature; and AARP.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.