

HB 196 -- MISSOURI RX PLAN

SPONSOR: Sater (Jones, 63)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Health Care Policy but reported "do pass" by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill removes a provision which specifies that the statutes regarding the Missouri Senior Rx Program must terminate following notice to the Missouri Revisor of Statutes by the Missouri Rx Plan Advisory Commission that the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 has been fully implemented and extends the expiration date on the provisions regarding the Missouri Rx Plan from August 28, 2011, to August 28, 2016.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014. Estimated Net Cost on Other State Funds of \$19,602,166 in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the Missouri Rx Plan is a very important pharmaceutical assistance program that provides crucial financial assistance to low-income elderly and disabled individuals. The bill re-authorizes the plan, for the first time since its inception in 2006, for another five years. The repealed provision addresses the removal of the program's oversight commission because the work being done by this commission can be handled by another existing committee.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Jones (63); Department of Social Services; and AARP.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.