

HCS HB 231 -- MISSOURI SENIOR ADVOCACY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

SPONSOR: Bruns (Portwood)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Senior Citizen Advocacy by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute establishes within the Department of Health and Senior Services the Missouri Senior Advocacy and Efficiency Commission. The substitute:

- (1) Specifies the membership of the commission and their terms of service;
- (2) Allows for reasonable reimbursement for expenses incurred by commission members for the performance of their official duties;
- (3) Requires the department to provide necessary staff for administrative support of the commission;
- (4) Requires the commission to meet at least every 90 days;
- (5) Charges the commission to gather information pertaining to the quality and efficiency of senior services offered by the state, analyze statutes and administrative rules as to the efficiency or lack thereof of certain programs, utilize staff of the General Assembly to assist seniors in making application for federal prescription drug assistance, serve as a resource for state and federal pharmaceutical benefits, and maintain a web site and toll-free senior advocacy support telephone number;
- (6) Requires the commission to submit a report to the Governor, General Assembly, and the department by February 1, 2007, and every February 1 thereafter; and
- (7) Allows the department to accept federal moneys, gifts, and donations on behalf of the commission.

The provisions of the substitute will terminate on December 31, 2007, unless reauthorized.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Less than \$157,397 in FY 2006, Less than \$162,742 in FY 2007, and Less than \$164,417 in FY 2008. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the Missouri Senior Advocacy and Efficiency Commission will consolidate eight different commissions relating to seniors within the Department of Health and Senior Services. Programs will operate more efficiently because the commission will be able to design ways to utilize staff, streamline the application process, and be more informed on the issues.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Portwood; and Independent Living Center Southeast Missouri.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Dominic Lackey, Legislative Analyst