

HCS HB 98 -- TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

SPONSOR: Nance (Parson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Senior Citizen Advocacy by a vote of 7 to 0.

This substitute authorizes each area agency on aging to establish a volunteer program for the transportation of elderly individuals to scheduled, health care-related appointments. Participating volunteers must use their own vehicles and may be reimbursed by the agency at the same rate as state employees for any mileage allowance or reimbursement due. Subject to appropriation, each area agency may request funding of up to \$1,000 annually from the Department of Health and Senior Services to assist with the administration costs of the program.

The provisions of the substitute will expire six years from the effective date.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Up to \$115,000 in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill provides benefits to senior citizens who have health conditions that prevent them from driving; and the additional support would be helpful, especially in rural areas. The area agencies on aging currently have liability insurance for the volunteers that provide transportation services for seniors.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Parson; Arthritis Foundation-Eastern Missouri Chapter; and Missouri Alliance of Area Agencies on Aging.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.