

HB 1625 -- SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Morris (140)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 11 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 10 to 1.

This bill establishes the Missouri Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. The Department of Agriculture, through a federal grant program with the USDA Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, will provide low-income seniors at least 60 years of age or older with vouchers from county designated distribution sites that may be exchanged for eligible foods at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community supported agricultural programs.

This bill is similar to HB 327 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that many seniors live on a fixed income and cannot afford fresh fruits and vegetables. This bill would help seniors afford fresh produce from farmers' markets across the state.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Morris; Missouri Soybean Association; American Heart Association; Jackson County Legislature; Dan Kuebler, Mid America Organic Association, Missouri Farmer Market Association; AARP; KC Healthy Kids; Missouri State Alliance Of YMCAs; and Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.