

HB 249 -- MISSOURI SENIOR CADETS PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Moore

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 7 to 1.

This bill establishes the Missouri Senior Cadets Program for college-bound high school seniors with a grade point average of at least 3.0. Public high schools will establish cadet programs in which the cadets will assist kindergarten through eighth grade students with their educational needs for at least 10 hours a week. Successful cadets will get an hour of elective credit to be applied to their high school graduation and may, if they attend college to become a teacher, be reimbursed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the cost of three credit hours per semester for no more than eight semesters.

The Missouri Senior Cadets Fund is created and will consist of all moneys appropriated, gifts, contributions, grants, or bequests which are to be used solely for tuition reimbursements under this program.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$0 in FY 2009, \$48,419 in FY 2009, and \$5,276,688 in FY 2010. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that allowing teaching experience at a young age is a very effective way of getting good students to commit to becoming teachers. Teacher candidates who have early positive field experiences make strongly committed teachers, and current teachers and students benefit from the help of the cadets.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Moore; Missouri State Teachers Association; and Mark Enderle, Fulton School District.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.