

SS SB 417 -- FARM MENTORING AND EDUCATION FUND

SPONSOR: Goodman (Parson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Agri-Business by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute creates the Farm Mentoring and Education Fund to be administered by the Farm Mentoring and Education Authority within the University of Missouri Extension Center. The General Assembly is authorized to annually appropriate up to \$99,000 to the fund. The fund will provide educational training to help an individual plan and begin traditional and sustainable farm enterprises and pay the salaries for a program director and his or her staff.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$0 to \$99,000 in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010. No impact on Other State Funds of \$0 in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the program is based on a model developed in Minnesota and implemented as a pilot program in West Plains last year. The program consists of classroom education administered by university extension services emphasizing the business and financial aspects of farming and a mentor, who is an established successful farmer, who will provide practical agricultural guidance.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Goodman.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.