

HCS HB 2147 -- UTILICARE STABILIZATION FUND

SPONSOR: Emery (Skaggs)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special Committee on Utilities by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute increases the maximum allowable funding for households eligible to receive financial assistance for heating and cooling expenses from the Utilicare Stabilization Fund, administered by the Department of Social Services, from \$600 to \$800 per household per fiscal year.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that federal support for heating assistance has not increased but costs have risen. In 2007, 40,000 Missouri homes were without adequate heating at the start of the winter. Utilicare funds may be used for improvements in energy efficiency and weatherization programs which provide long-term solutions to heating problems.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Skaggs; Missouri Public Service Commission; AARP-Missouri; Department of Natural Resources; and Missouri Association for Community Action.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.