

HCB 3 -- SENIOR SERVICES PROTECTION

SPONSOR: Fitzpatrick

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules - Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 5.

This bill prohibits the issuance of the renter's portion of the senior citizens property tax credit. The Department of Revenue is required to calculate how much of the renter's portion of the tax credit was redeemed in fiscal year 2016. Beginning fiscal year 2018, such amount will be transferred into the newly created, Missouri Senior Services Protection Fund. Moneys in the fund will be used for services for low-income seniors and disabled persons.

This bill is similar to SB 350 (2013).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill reallocates \$50 million in the state budget by making some adjustments to the tax credit structure. The tax credit adjusted is supposed to go to the most needy citizens in our state but is not currently being distributed to achieve that goal.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Alferman.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that eliminating the tax credit would impact many disabled and senior citizens greatly by removing funds they use to purchase goods and services not covered by Medicaid. There are other options the legislature could explore to accomplish the goals stated. It would not do a service to seniors to swap one necessary program for another.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging; AARP Missouri; Missouri Budget Project; Kim Lackey, Paraquad, Inc.; Kay Barbee; Wayne Lee; and Craig Mershon.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill clarified that Senate Bill 19 (2015) has resulted in the loss of about \$24 million in tax collections, not the \$150 million that was stated during testimony.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Department of Revenue.