

HCS SB 373 -- ELDERLY

SPONSOR: Curls (Morris)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 9 to 2.

This bill changes the laws relating to elderly.

#### SENIOR CITIZENS SERVICES FUND

The bill requires that the City of St. Louis only spend moneys deposited in the Senior Citizens Services Fund in accordance with the budget approved by the Board of Directors appointed to oversee the fund (Section 67.990, RSMo).

#### MANDATORY REPORTING LONG TERM CARE

This bill amends provisions relating to reporting of suspected abuse and neglect of a resident of a long-term care facility who is 60 years of age or older or an eligible adult. Currently, a report is required to be made to the Department of Health and Senior Services in the event of suspected abuse or neglect. Under this bill, in the event of suspected sexual assault of the resident, specified mandated reporters shall also report to local law enforcement under the procedures of the Federal Elder Justice Act of 2009 (Section 198.070).

#### SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET PROGRAM

The bill establishes the Missouri Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. The Department of Health and Senior Services, 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 (Section 208.285).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that many seniors live on a fixed income and cannot afford fresh fruits and vegetables. In 2014, one in five seniors went hungry. This bill would help seniors afford fresh produce from farmers' markets across the state.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Curls; KC Healthy Kids; Missouri Soybean Association; Missouri State Alliance of YMCAs; Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City; Karen Englert, American Heart Association; Empower Missouri; and Missouri

Community Action Network.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.