

SCS SB 787 -- SENIOR FARMERS' MARKET PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Curls

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 12 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 11 to 1.

This bill establishes the "Missouri Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program." The Department of Agriculture, 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.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that many seniors live on a fixed income and cannot afford fresh fruits and vegetables. This bill would help seniors afford fresh produce from farmers' markets across the state.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Curls; Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging; Missouri Soybean Association; American Heart Association; Missouri Community Action Network; Kansas City Healthy Kids; Sarah Swearer, Empower Missouri; Missouri State Alliance of YMCAs; and the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.