

HB 747 -- SALES TAX

SPONSOR: Neely

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Aging by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 4 to 3.

Beginning October 1, 2019, this bill reduces the state sales and use tax rate on retail sales of feminine hygiene products, diapers, and incontinence products to equal the reduced state sales tax rate imposed on the retail sale of food.

This bill is similar to HB 741 (2019).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that no one actually wants to purchase any of the items on this list, but they are necessary for health and survival. Furthermore, not being able to afford to purchase these things cause people to miss school, work, and other activities related to health and well-being. Supporters argue that while the fiscal note indicates a high cost due to loss of tax revenue, the savings will likely be spent on other taxable items, so the ultimate cost will be negligible.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Neely; Darby Moore; American Association of Retired Persons; Jessica Adams, St.Louis Area Diaper Bank; Kali Jones; American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; Planned Parenthood Advocates in Missouri; and Taylor Eaton.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.