

SB 358 -- HEALTH PROFESSIONAL STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Sater

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Career Readiness by a vote of 7 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 2.

This bill adds psychiatrists to the Health Professional Student Loan Repayment Program. The Department of Health and Senior Services shall designate areas of need for psychiatric services when such areas have been designated as mental health care professional shortage areas by the federal Department of Health and Human Services or when the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services has determined such areas to have an extraordinary need.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill has a zero fiscal note and would not increase the amount of money in the program, but would allow psychiatrists to participate in the repay program. Psychiatrists are highly sought after and there is a high need in the majority of counties in the state.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Sater; Missouri Hospital Association; Missouri Psychiatric Physicians Association; and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.