

HB 1270 -- BLIND PENSIONS

SPONSOR: Unsicker

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 15 to 0. Voted "Do Pass- Consent" by the Standing Committee on Consent and House Procedure by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill removes a requirement that any notice sent to an applicant or recipient of blind pension funds must be sent by certified mail. Instead, the bill allows the notice to be sent by any mail delivered by the United States Postal Service.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will save the state money and resources, as well as save Blind Pension Fund recipients the time and effort they must go through to receive a certified piece of mail, particularly if the recipient is not at home when the delivery is attempted. Additionally, because of pension deadlines for applicants or recipients, having to go to the post office to pick up a certified piece of mail can delay or interfere with receiving benefits.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Unsicker; Wayne Lee; Rita A. Lynch, National Federation of The Blind of Jefferson City; and Naomi Soule, Missouri Council of The Blind.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.