

HB 31 -- Senior Services Growth and Development Program

Sponsor: Sater

This bill establishes the Senior Services Growth and Development Program within the Department of Health and Senior Services to provide additional funding to enhance senior services in the state and assist senior centers in their need for growing operations and capital expenditures. Beginning January 1, 2012, a surcharge of 1% of the annual premiums on certain specified individual and group Medicare and long-term care insurance contracts must be imposed and collected by the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration for deposit into the newly created Senior Services Enhanced Fund.

The Department of Health and Senior Services must establish and collaborate with a distribution group consisting of one member from each area agency on aging to establish guidelines for the equitable distribution of moneys in the fund to the area agencies on aging. Fifty percent of all moneys distributed must be used solely for the operating and capital needs of centers and for the establishment of new centers. All area agencies on aging must report annually to the department on the distribution and use of moneys in the fund.