

HCS HB 1156 -- MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Lair

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities by a vote of 11 to 0.

By September 1, 2014, this bill requires the Department of Social Services, in cooperation with the Department of Health and Senior Services and the Department of Mental Health, to establish a committee to assess the continuation of the Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program in order to support Missourians who have disabilities and those who are aging to transition from nursing facilities or habilitation centers to quality community settings. The committee will study sustainability of the program beyond the current demonstration timeframe for all transitions to occur by September 30, 2018. The Director of the Department of Social Services must administer the committee and choose its members. The committee must include fiscal staff from the Department of Social Services, the Department of Health and Senior Services, the Department of Mental Health, and the Division of Budget and Planning within the Office of Administration.

The committee must:

- (1) Review the extent to which the demonstration program has achieved its purposes;
- (2) Assess any possible improvements to the program;
- (3) Investigate program elements and costs to sustain the program beyond its current demonstration period;
- (4) Explore cost savings achieved through the demonstration program; and
- (5) Investigate the possibility and need to apply for a waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Committee members must also include a representative from each of the following:

- (1) The Division of Senior and Disability Services within the Department of Health and Senior Services;
- (2) The MO HealthNet Division within the Department of Social Services;
- (3) The Division of Developmental Disabilities within the

Department of Mental Health;

(4) Centers for independent living and area agencies on aging currently serving as Money Follows the Person local contact agencies;

(5) The Missouri Assistive Technology Council;

(6) The Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council;

(7) The nursing home industry;

(8) The House of Representatives;

(9) The Senate; and

(10) An association that represents the entire continuum of senior and disability services including independent living.

The committee may also include other members or workgroups deemed necessary to accomplish its purposes including, but not limited to, representatives from state agencies, local advisory groups and community members, and members of the General Assembly with valuable input regarding the activities of the program.

By July 1, 2015, the Department of Social Services, in cooperation with the Department of Health and Senior Services and the Department of Mental Health, must make recommendations based on the findings of the committee and report them to the General Assembly and the Governor.

The provisions of the bill will expire on January 1, 2016.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this is a federal program that will last through 2018. This bill would create a committee to research the feasibility of extending and continuing the program beyond 2018.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lair; Leslie Anderson, Services for Independent Living; Marty Exline, Missouri Assistive Technology; Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging; Andrew Lackey, Missouri Governor's Council on Disability.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.