

HCS HB 1873 -- PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANCE SERVICES

SPONSOR: Bruns (Lembke)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Senior Citizen Advocacy by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute changes the requirements for financial assistance for personal care services. The substitute:

- (1) Removes the requirement that an applicant and his or her spouse have an adjusted income within 300% of the federal poverty level, less any disability-related medical expenses;
- (2) Specifies that in order to establish financial need an applicant can demonstrate disability-related medical and reasonable living expenses as approved by the Department of Health and Senior Services;
- (3) Removes the requirement that an applicant's spouse submit documentation of his or her income;
- (4) Stipulates that each consumer who participates in the program is responsible for a monthly premium between zero and 5% of his or her income as specified in the substitute; and
- (5) Specifies if the individual receiving assistance is married, the couple's combined adjusted gross income cannot exceed \$125,000.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Greater than \$100,000 in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will help individuals who are not eligible for Missouri Medicaid benefits, but still need personal care assistance in their homes. Individuals losing this assistance will face job loss, home loss, and be forced to move into nursing homes. This program also helps individuals leave Medicaid by providing in-home assistance to disabled individuals who are currently working and earn too much to qualify for Medicaid.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lembke; Paraquad Incorporated; Whole Person, Incorporated; Epilepsy Foundation of the St. Louis Region; Stephanie Campbell; Doug Landous; Gary Sallee; Kirk Goodman; Robert Pund; Kay Yeager; and Elizabeth Walsh.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alex Curchin, Legislative Analyst