

HB 1350 -- IN-HOME SERVICE PROVIDERS

SPONSOR: Smith (163)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill modifies the laws regarding background check requirements of in-home service providers and home health agencies. Currently, an in-home service provider or home health agency cannot employ a person if the person is listed on a background check list in the family care safety registry. This bill says that an in-home service provider or home health agency cannot employ a person if the person who has been found guilty of or has pled guilty or nolo contendere to specified felony offenses as outlined in the bill, is listed on the Department of Health and Senior Services employee disqualification list, is listed on the Department of Mental Health disqualification registry, or has a finding on the child abuse and neglect registry.

No state or federal financial assistance shall be authorized to pay for personal care assistance services provided by a personal care attendant who has not undergone a background screening process.

This bill is the same as HB 1119 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will increase the number of people who can work as an in-home service provider or personal care attendant and relieve burdensome paperwork requirements on the department because 75% of applicants are eventually given good cause waivers. This bill will stop applicants from being flagged for minor violations, like littering or writing a bad check, which also may have occurred several years ago.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Smith; Missouri Alliance for Homecare; Integrity Homecare & Hospice; Missouri Council for in Home Services; Missouri Assisted Living Association; Oxford Health Care; and Wayne Lee.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.