

HCS HB 410 -- SUBSTANCE ABUSE TRAFFIC OFFENDER PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Holand (Schaaf)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 13 to 0.

This substitute revises provisions pertaining to the Substance Abuse Traffic Offender Program.

The substitute:

- (1) Requires that some of the moneys deposited in the Health Initiatives Fund be used for the administration of the program;
- (2) Requires that persons who have had their driver's license suspended or revoked for various reasons enroll and complete the program or a comparable program determined by the Department of Mental Health;
- (3) Requires that enrollees in the program pay a supplemental fee in addition to a required fee. The amount of the supplemental fee will be determined by the department, but will not exceed \$200. This requirement applies to persons who are guilty of intoxication-related offenses and various other offenses; and
- (4) Requires administrators to remit to the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse all supplemental fees, less 2% for administrative costs. Administrators and programs who fail to remit the supplemental fees and interest on any unpaid supplemental fee balance will be subject to a penalty or legal action by the Attorney General.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Income to Mental Health Earnings Fund of \$181,328 to \$1,966,337 in FY 2004, \$490,729 to \$2,632,740 in FY 2005, and \$490,729 to \$2,632,740 in FY 2006. Estimated Net Savings to Health Initiatives Fund of \$1,365,680 in FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the program was originally established with the intent that it would be a self-funded program. The current fees collected from participants in the program are inadequate to cover the increasing costs of administering the program. The bill would improve the administration of the program and the collection of fees. The program receives 30,000 referrals annually and the recidivism rate for former participants is lower than the national average for similar programs. The program is one of the most successful programs in the country, thus contributing to improved public

safety efforts in Missouri.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schaaf; Michael Couty, Director, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Department of Mental Health; Office of the Attorney General; and Missouri Hospital Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Joseph Deering, Legislative Analyst