

HB 481 -- Public Funds

Co-Sponsors: Crowell, Bearden, Rupp, Moore, Ervin, Lipke (157), Smith (14), Muckler, Dixon, Viebrock

This bill prohibits the expenditure of public funds to existing or proposed health and social services programs that directly or indirectly subsidize abortion services. An entity that is affiliated with another entity that provides abortion services may only receive public funds if the affiliated entity is an independent affiliate. Entities that provide counseling to pregnant women and receive public funds may only provide non-directive pregnancy counseling and may not display or distribute materials promoting abortion services.

The bill requires entities that receive public funds to maintain records that demonstrate strict compliance with this section. An independent audit of these entities must be conducted at least once every three years. If the recipient of public funds is affiliated with an entity that provides abortion services, an audit must be conducted each year to ensure compliance. The bill includes exceptions for reimbursement to entities that provide services that are required under federal Medicaid regulations and certain services required under the federal family planning program.

The bill also prohibits public funds from being expended on existing or proposed research projects that involve abortion services, human cloning, or prohibited human research.

The bill gives taxpayers of the state standing to bring suit against the state or a recipient of public funds in violation of the provisions of the bill.