

HB 486 -- SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT

SPONSOR: Bruns

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 11 to 0.

Currently, a person who provides assessment services for the state in sexual offender cases cannot be related within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity to any person who has a financial interest in a sex offender counseling program. This bill removes that prohibition when there is only one qualified service provider within a reasonably accessible distance from the offender.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill addresses an issue that was created by an amendment to House Bill 1055 last year, which prevented counselors from ordering services from companies in which they have a financial interest. That restriction is a good idea; however, in some rural parts of the state, there may be only one service provider. If that one provider has some connection to the person providing the initial assessment, there is no treatment available at all.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bruns; and Department of Corrections.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Richard Smreker, Senior Legislative Analyst