

HCS#2 HB 586 -- PUBLIC FUNDS

SPONSOR: Phillips (Sander)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 7 to 1.

This substitute 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 material promoting abortion services.

Entities that receive public funds are required 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 substitute includes exceptions for reimbursement to entities that provide services that are required under federal Medicaid regulations and certain services required under the federal Public Health Services Act.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill establishes public policy to ensure that state funds do not in any way subsidize abortions.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Sander; Missouri Right to Life; Campaign Life Missouri; Missouri Family Network; Missouri Baptist Convention-Christian Life Commission; and Missouri Catholic Conference.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that instead of trying to prevent Planned Parenthood from receiving public funds for non-abortion related services, the House of Representatives should be doing everything in its power to ensure that women in Missouri have access to family planning services.

Testifying against the bill was Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region.

Dominic Lackey, Legislative Analyst