

SB 518 -- ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TRUST FUND

SPONSOR: Kennedy (Cooper, 155)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 7 to 0.

This bill creates the Assistive Technology Trust Fund, which will consist of federal grants, gifts, donations, bequests from individuals, private organizations, foundations, or other sources granted or given for assistive technology devices and services for individuals with disabilities. Moneys in the fund are to be used to establish and maintain assistive technology programs and services provided by Missouri Assistive Technology. The Missouri Assistive Technology Advisory Council is required to employ the necessary staff, enter into grants and contracts with public and private entities, and administer the fund.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will allow the council to apply for grants that it currently cannot apply for. The fund helps provide financial support for purchasing assistive devices and making vehicle and home modifications for individuals with disabilities.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Kennedy; and Missouri Assistive Technology Council.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Amy Woods, Senior Legislative Analyst