

HB 1560 -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

SPONSOR: Bearden

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Senior Citizen Advocacy by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill establishes an assessment plan for use by the Department of Health and Senior Services for persons living in a residential care facility. The assessment will determine the amount of personal care services the residential care facility is authorized to be reimbursed for under Title XIX. Any change in the amount of personal care service a facility is authorized to provide a resident will be based on the level of personal care needs as determined by the assessment plan.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Effect on General Revenue Fund of a cost of Unknown to an income of Unknown in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill provides an assessment device that will better gauge the personal medical assistance levels necessary for patients in residential care facilities. Currently, personal assistance assessments are entirely subjective. The new assessment device will aid in determining whether patients require minimal, moderate, or maximum assistance. The bill also provides assessors with a more coherent and objective criteria for the assessment of patients' medical assistance needs and allows the state to more easily audit the residential care facilities' provision of medical assistance.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bearden; Missouri Assisted Living Association; William Kenny; Kathy McCrary; and Andrew Stubblefield.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alex Curchin, Legislative Analyst