

HB 55 -- Healthcare Technology Fund and Commission

Sponsor: Sater

This bill creates the Healthcare Technology Fund administered by the Department of Social Services, in accordance with the recommendations of the newly established Missouri Healthcare Technology Commission unless otherwise specified by the General Assembly, to promote technological advances to improve patient care, decrease administrative burdens, and increase patient and healthcare provider satisfaction. Any programs or improvements on technology must include encouragement and implementation of technologies intended to improve the safety, quality, and costs of healthcare services.

Moneys in the fund cannot be expended to the financial benefit of any elected public official or any state employee who has direct decision-making or administrative authority over disbursements from the fund. At least 25% of the funds annually disbursed must be dedicated to technological upgrades and the promotion of technological advances in medically underserved communities and populations. The department must establish the procedures and methods for implementing the bill.

The commission will consist of 16 members of the General Assembly with 10 members being selected by the Governor. The commission will develop and report recommendations relating to the expenditure of moneys appropriated to the fund to the Governor and General Assembly by January 1, 2008. The recommendations will include an analysis and review of the current status of healthcare information technology adoption by the healthcare delivery system in Missouri and address the potential technical, scientific, economic, security, privacy, and other issues related to the adoption of healthcare information technology. The commission will expire on April 15, 2008.

The bill prohibits an employer from requiring an employee to have a personal identification microchip implanted as a condition of employment. A violation of this provision will be a class A misdemeanor.

The bill contains an emergency clause.