

HB 888 -- FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION LIAISON ACT

SPONSOR: Grisamore

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on General Laws by a vote of 7 to 1.

This bill establishes the Faith-based Organization Liaison Act which requires the Director of the Department of Social Services to designate regional department employees to serve as the liaison to faith-based organizations in their respective region to facilitate the need for and benefits of community services for individuals in need of financial and/or other assistance.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there is no state mechanism to provide clear guidance to service providers of the rights and responsibilities under federal law of faith-based initiatives. The bill encourages the department to find alternatives to state programs, including faith-based initiatives. The inconsistency of information regarding faith-based initiatives made available by the state continues to be a problem and is the major reason why faith-based initiatives aren't more involved in solving Missouri's problems.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Grisamore; and Missouri Family Network.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.