

SCS SB 46 -- FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION LIAISON ACT

SPONSOR: Mayer (Grisamore)

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

This substitute establishes the Faith-based Organization Liaison Act which requires the Director of the Department of Social Services to designate existing 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 the bill will establish a formal process for defining the role of a faith-based liaison within the districts established by the Department of Social Services. The work of the liaison is already being done, and the bill does not require any additional personnel or workload. A liaison will promote the awareness of services that are offered by faith-based organizations for needy persons in a community, help coordinate the delivery of those services, and facilitate faith-based resources to supplement the areas of assistance where the state has exhausted its resources.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Mayer; Missouri Family Network; Catholic Charities Archdiocese of St. Louis; and Department of Social Services.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.