

HB 1241 -- Senior Services Growth and Development Program

Sponsor: Sater

This bill establishes the Senior Services Growth and Development Program within the Department of Health and Senior Services to provide additional funding for senior services in the state. Beginning January 1, 2011, a surcharge of 1% of the annual premiums on certain specified individual and group Medicare and long-term care insurance contracts will be imposed. The surcharges will be collected monthly, quarterly, or annually as determined by the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration in conjunction with the Department of Health and Senior Services and deposited into the newly created Senior Services Enhanced Fund. The collected funds will be used by the Department of Health and Senior Services to enhance senior services in the state and assist senior centers in their need for growing operations and capital expenditures.

The Department of Health and Senior Services must establish and collaborate with a distribution group consisting of one member from each area agency on aging to establish guidelines for the equitable distribution of the funds to the area agencies on aging. Fifty percent of all moneys distributed must be used solely for the operating and capital needs of centers and for the establishment of new centers. All area agencies on aging must report annually to the Department of Health and Senior Services on the distribution and use of the funds.