

HCS HB 1309 -- BRAIN INJURY FUND

SPONSOR: Sommer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities by a vote of 9 to 1.

This bill specifies that in all criminal cases including violations of any county or municipal ordinance or any violation of criminal or traffic laws of this state, including an infraction, there must be assessed as costs a surcharge of \$2. The surcharge must not be waived, except the surcharge will not be collected in a proceeding involving a violation of an ordinance or state law when the proceeding or defendant has been dismissed by the court or when costs are to be paid by the state, county or municipality. The proceeds from the surcharge will be paid to the state treasury to the credit of the Brain Injury Fund.

The bill specifies that the fund must be used for the transition, integration, and provision of community-based services in comprehensive brain injury day rehabilitation therapy programs, home and community supports, and social and educational activities for the purposes of outreach and support to enable individuals with brain injury and their families to live in the community.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that currently, a fee will only be charged to those who commit a traffic or criminal offense in the state. They are trying to close this loophole by clarifying that the fee applies to any county or municipality criminal offense. This will generate more revenue for the fund, thereby providing more services to those with brain injuries.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Sommer; Maureen Cunningham; Wayne Witte; Goodwill Industries; Missouri Association with Rehabilitation Facilities; Coalition of Service Providers of St. Charles County; Paraquad Independent Living Center; Mike Sparks; and Andrea Buning.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.