

HB 1517 -- STATE LEGAL EXPENSE FUND

SPONSOR: McCann Beatty

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Budget by a vote of 28 to 0. Voted "Do Pass- Consent" by the Committee on Consent and House Procedure by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill requires the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Administration, by no later than September 30, 2018, and by the last day of each calendar month thereafter, to submit a report to the General Assembly detailing settlements and judgments paid in the previous month from the State Legal Expense Fund, including any payments from or deposits to the fund, as specified in the bill.

In cases of legal expenses incurred by specified state departments, universities, and colleges, the required report is to be submitted by the legal counsel provided by the respective entity and by the designated keeper of that entity's accounts.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill is about transparency and budgeting relating to the lawsuits against the Department of Corrections and other state agencies. The Attorney General's Office is currently posting this information on its website and has recently released a report detailing the litigation liabilities paid from the Legal Expense Fund.

Testifying for the bill were Representative McCann Beatty and the Attorney General's Office.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.