

HB 1906 -- SENIOR SERVICES

SPONSOR: Higdon

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Insurance Policy by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 9 to 0.

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 through area agencies on aging. Beginning January 1, 2019, the Director of the Department of Revenue shall deposit 5%, phased in over two years, of the premium tax collected from certain insurance companies and associations, excluding any moneys statutorily-mandated to be transferred to the State School Moneys Fund and excluding the cost of collection, in the "Senior Services Growth and Development Program Fund." The moneys collected shall be placed in a special fund in the State Treasury and the Department of Health and Senior Services shall disburse the funds to the area agencies on aging. All area agencies shall report annually to the Department of Health and Senior Services, the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration, and the General Assembly on the distribution and use of the funds.

This bill is the same as SB 694 (2018) and similar to SCS SB 192 and HCS HB 540 (2017) and similar to SCS SB 1095 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will help provide funding for senior services through area agencies on aging which will help seniors to get the services they greatly need.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Higdon; Catherine Edwards, Missouri Association of Area Agencies of Aging; Dorothy Knowles; Mary Chronister; and Ron Clark.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say this bill will take additional funds from insurance companies and where will it start. The state needs to find sources of funds from general revenue if this program needs additional funding.

Testifying on the bill were the Missouri Insurance Coalition and the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration.