

HB 2238 -- SOCIAL INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Mathews

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Ways and Means by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules-Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill creates the "Social Innovation Grant Program" within the Office of Administration and requires the Governor to designate an individual to serve as the executive director of the program. The bill permits the Office of Administration or the General Assembly to identify additional critical state concerns that could potentially be addressed through the social innovation grant program and includes families in generational child welfare; recidivism among offenders with drug addictions; opioid-addicted pregnant women; and children in residential treatment with behavioral issues as critical state concerns.

For any critical state concern for which a social innovation grant is being utilized, the executive director is required to establish a "Social Innovation Grant Team" to be comprised of specified subject matter experts. Such teams are tasked with:

- (1) Formulating a request for proposals for social innovation grants;
- (2) Evaluating responsive proposals and selecting those bids for demonstration projects that provide the greatest opportunity for addressing the critical state concern in a cost-effective and replicable way; and
- (3) Monitoring demonstration projects and evaluating them based on the objectives outlined in the request for proposals; the program's outline; the project's impact on the critical state concern; and the project's ability to be replicated on a cost-effective basis.

The bill requires demonstration projects to be operated over a period of time sufficient to impact the population served by the project based on the parameters and objectives outlined in the request for proposals. Grantees, at a minimum, must be nonprofit organizations with experience working with the population identified as a critical state concern. Upon the conclusion of a demonstration project, the social innovation grant team is required to compile all relevant data and submit a report to the General Assembly.

The bill requires the social innovation grant team to identify methods to fund the social innovation grant program, including

state partnerships with nonprofit organizations and foundations, and the executive director of the social innovation grant program must identify sustainability models for deploying successful demonstration projects.

The bill will sunset six years after the effective date.

This bill is the same as HB 960 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that all people need adequate housing, food, medical care, education, etc. Missouri tax policy has made it difficult to meet all these goals. This bill would allow public/private partnerships to expand state dollars to help provide more money for basic needs. Social innovation grant programs are a good way to do some of this.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Mathews; Jewish Federations of St. Louis Family Forward, St. Louis Children's Hospital; and Missouri Catholic Conference.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.