

HCS HB 2671 -- STATE LEGAL EXPENSE FUND

SPONSOR: Hill

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Budget by a vote of 20 to 7.

This bill limits the aggregate amount of payments that can be made from the State Legal Expense Fund to a maximum of \$500,000 per single cause against a health care provider licensed to practice in Missouri under Chapters 330, 332, 334, 335, 337 or 338, RSMo, who is employed by the state or agency of the state under a formal contract.

The bill specifies that if a judgment or settlement of at least \$250,000 is paid out of the State Legal Expense Fund because of an act of a state employee, such employee shall be subject to review by the employing agency or department within 30 days to determine if such employee should resign. If determined that the employee's actions should result in resignation, the employee must resign within 30 days of any review and cannot be employed by the state for 10 years.

Beginning August 28, 2019, if an act or omission of a college or university employee results in a judgment or settlement, such public education institution of higher education will be required to pay 50% of the judgment or settlement amount if the Attorney General represents such institution or 100% of the judgment or settlement amount if the institution represents itself.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill is needed to reform the Legal Expense Fund and place some accountability on the employees and departments.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Hill.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.