

HB 337 -- SENIOR SERVICES

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Aging by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 8 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, 2020, 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 86 (2019).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this is a small step toward restoring badly needed funding for significant unmet needs of seniors. If this funding were granted, agencies are prepared to show how great an impact will be made, so that they can prove they are good stewards of public money and further restoration of funding is warranted.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swan; Catherine Edwards, Missouri Association of Areas Agencies on Aging; Mary Chronister, Silver Hair Legislature; and Rebecca Nowlin, Central Missouri Area Agency On Aging.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.