

HB 2408 -- GRANTS TO DEAF-BLIND INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

SPONSOR: Shields

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Legislative Review by a vote of 8 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 11 to 0.

Current law governs provisions on grants provided by the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, with a cap on the total amount of grants of no more than \$300,000 annually. This bill repeals that annual cap.

This bill is similar to HB 1308 (2025).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that support service providers have increased in the time that this section of law was last amended, and more funding is needed due to the increased amount of providers. These providers encourage independent living for deaf-blind individuals and are seen as a vital resource.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Shields; Brett Wilhelm; Lydia Olmsted; and Sheila Wright, National Federation of The Blind.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.