

HCS HB 2610 -- STATE LEGAL EXPENSE FUND

SPONSOR: Murphy

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 17 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 6 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2610.

Currently, moneys in the Legal Expense Fund are available for the payment of claims or other amounts required by any final judgment rendered against any physician licensed to practice medicine in this state who is employed by or under contract with a city or county health department. In the case of any claim or judgment arising, the aggregate of payments from the fund is limited to a maximum of \$1 million.

This bill makes moneys in the Legal Expense Fund available for the payment of claims or other amounts required by any final judgment rendered against any entity that provides foster care case management or residential services under contract or subcontract, including members, officers, and employees of the an entity. However, in the case of any claim or judgment arising, the aggregate of payments from the fund is limited to a maximum of \$1 million.

This bill is similar to SB 844 (2026).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that members, even with no claims, are frequently dropped, and this occurs beyond the state level. This has resulted in increased liability insurance, and this is a situation that cannot be gotten out of through risk management.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Murphy; Missouri Alliance For Children & Families; Missouri Coalition For Children; Arnie Dienoff; and Family Forward.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the fund does cover negligence, and provides that if conduct is covered by the fund, the AG represents them for services.

Testifying in person on the bill was Jeremiah Morgan, Missouri Attorney General's Office.

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.