

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass and Be Placed on the Consent Calendar
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Frederick, Greenlick, Harker, Parrish, Thompson, Weidner, Gilliam, Tomei
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Jennifer Kellar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/2, 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Clarifies that the Department of Human Services does not contract with nonprofit legal services organizations or lawyers to represent recipients of State Family Pre-Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability Insurance (SFPSSI/SSDI) program assistance in administrative hearings before the Social Security Administration, instead maintaining a list of and referring recipients to these services. Requires recipients to sign Interim Assistance Reimbursement (IAR) agreements when applying for Supplemental Security Income benefits. Measure aligns statute with current Social Security Administration policy.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Department of Human Services not currently contracting with legal service organizations or attorneys
- Discussion and affirmation that bill language would modify current policy
- Cost savings to agency with implementation of bill
- Supplemental Security Income benefits currently pay for attorney costs out of client's lump sum payment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In 2007, the Legislative Assembly enacted HB 2469, which created the State Family Pre-SSI/SSDA program (SFPSS). Current statutory language does not align with the Social Security Administration (SSA) policy and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) redesign under HB 2469. Currently, the Department of Human Services (DHS) does not contract with nonprofit legal services organizations or lawyers.

Between January and October 2010, there were 387 SFPSS program recipients who signed IAR agreements and were awarded SSI benefits. During this time period, DHS collected \$1,165,063 in SFPSS fund reimbursements. Reimbursement funds are returned to the SFPSS program budget.