

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bates, Kruse, Morse, Shields, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Brian Nieubuurt, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Removes requirement that the Department of Human Services (DHS) contract with nonprofit legal services organizations or lawyers to represent residents in administrative law hearings before the Social Security Administration (SSA) Office of Disability Adjudication and Review. Requires that DHS maintain a list of lawyers admitted to the bar and approved by SSA and nonprofit legal services organizations. Requires participants in the State Family Pre-SSI/SSDI Program (SFPSS Program) to sign an interim assistance reimbursement (IAR) agreement. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current DHS relationship with legal entities

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The SFPSS Program, created by the Legislative Assembly in 2007, assists needy families in qualifying for Social Security Income and Social Security disability benefits. Between January and October 2010, there were 387 SFPSS Program recipients for whom DHS collected \$1,165,063 in reimbursements.

House Bill 2048 aligns the SFPSS Program statutes with current program operations and SSA policies. First, the bill changes the statutes to clarify that DHS does not contract with legal services organizations or lawyers but, rather, maintains a list of attorneys clients can retain. Second, House Bill 2048 requires program participants to sign an IAR agreement. These agreements allow the SFPSS Program to recoup amounts paid to participants once they receive Social Security benefit payments.