

SB 1542

Relating to in-home care providers

Under Senate Bill 1542, the Home Care Commission (budgeted within the Department of Human Services) will administer a program enabling private payers to buy home care services from the Commission's home care registry. Currently, only individuals covered by Medicaid may hire caregivers through the registry.

The Commission will be responsible for a variety of tasks, including publicizing the registry, screening workers, setting standards, providing referrals, establishing rates, and paying wages. After start-up, the program is expected to be self-supporting when it launches in July 2015.

For 2013-15 the bill has a fiscal impact of \$1,281,297 associated with start-up costs; these are anticipated to be covered by a General Fund appropriation in the session budget reconciliation bill.

The amendment proposed by the Subcommittee primarily reinforces the self-support expectation for the program and lays out steps for the Commission to take if revenues are insufficient to cover costs. It also clarifies the ongoing nature of a home care worker classification subcommittee and clarifies language around health and safety standards.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends Senate Bill 1542 be amended and reported out do pass, as amended.