

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/16/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 03/19, 03/24, 04/16

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

Prepared By: Cheyenne Ross, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires specified entities provide one free copy of identifiable health information upon request, hard copy or digital, for purpose of appeal of Social Security Disability benefits. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Social Security Disability applications and appeals processes
- Four to six, average number of requests for records, per applicant
- Effect of financial barriers on most vulnerable applicants
- Attorneys' contingent fee agreements with applicants

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Makes applicable to appeal only, not original application.

BACKGROUND:

Individuals appealing denied applications for Social Security Disability benefits are experiencing difficulty working and for that reason, are also likely to be experiencing financial hardship. The person's medical history is required as part of the appeal, since medical issues are key to eligibility determinations. Obtaining the required records can be costly.

Senate Bill 710-A provides one free copy of identifiable health information upon request, in either hard copy or digital form, for the purpose of appealing a denial of Social Security Disability benefits.