

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/18/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 05/18

Vote:

Yeas: 8 - Buehler, Greenlick, Hayden, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Nosse, Weidner

Abs: 1 - Clem

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires specified entities to provide, upon request, one copy of individually identifiable health information free of charge to individual, or to personal representative when the individual is appealing denial of Social Security Disability benefits.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Social Security Disability appeals process
- Process expensive and lengthy for individuals
- Attorney's fee agreement with applicants
- Current hospital process

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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.