

HB 4042

Relating to general assistance

On February 24th, the Human Services Subcommittee voted to recommend passage of HB 4042, with amendments.

The bill creates a general assistance project capped at 200 participants per month who are homeless, enrolled in a medical assistance program, and have a disability that would likely qualify for federal SSI or SSDI benefits. Participants will receive a payment of \$695 per month to be used for housing assistance, utilities, personal incidentals, and get help applying for federal benefits.

Some of the state funding will be recovered when a participant starts receiving SSI or SSDI payments; it is estimated that about 80% of participants will be eligible. An advisory group will help develop project metrics.

The amendment adds compiling a list of attorneys to help participants to the advisory group's charge and sets a July 2, 2016 operative date. It also appropriates \$1.6 million General Fund and adds \$65,348 Other Funds expenditure limitation to the DHS budget for program start up, administration, and benefit payments. The agency's fiscal impact estimate includes costs for three positions to set up and coordinate payments, to assist in obtaining housing, and to perform tracking required to receive federal reimbursement.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends HB 4042 be amended by the -3 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.