

SB 1528 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 02/09/22

Action: Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

Vote: 3-1-1-0

Yeas: 3 - Beyer, Manning Jr, Patterson

Nays: 1 - Linthicum

Exc: 1 - Kennemer

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Daniel Dietz, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/7, 2/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide person-centered resource facilitation, skills training, advocacy, and counseling options to individuals with brain injuries. Defines "brain injury." Establishes the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Committee, including representatives who are living with brain injuries, to consult on the development of programs and services. Requires DHS to report to the Legislative Assembly in each odd-numbered year on utilization of services and the needs and barriers faced by individuals with brain injuries. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to DHS. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Definitions of "brain injury" and "traumatic brain injury"
- Experiences of people with brain injuries as they navigate medical systems and resources
- Impact of brain injury resource facilitation programs in other states
- Number of program staff and scope of support needed by people with brain injuries

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines traumatic brain injury (TBI) as a disruption in the normal function of the brain that can be caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or penetrating head injury. The CDC reports that 223,050 people were hospitalized in 2018 for brain injury, including 16,480 children. People with brain injuries may have impairments related to thinking or memory, movement, sensation (e.g., vision or hearing), or emotional functioning (e.g., personality changes, depression). Brain injuries have lasting effects on individuals, families, and communities.

Senate Bill 1528 establishes a program within the Department of Human Services to provide services to individuals with brain injuries.