

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 6002-01
Bill No.: Perfected HB 1835
Subject: Disabilities; Public Assistance; Social Services Department
Type: Original
Date: March 27, 2014

Bill Summary: This proposal specifies that recipients of blind pension benefits with no usable vision shall be exempt from the 5-year vision re-examination requirement.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
General Revenue	Unknown, less than \$83,333	Unknown, less than \$100,000	Unknown, less than \$100,000
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund	Unknown, less than \$83,333	Unknown, less than \$100,000	Unknown, less than \$100,000

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
This fiscal note contains 4 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

Estimated Total Net Effect on All funds expected to exceed \$100,000 savings or (cost).

Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund expected to exceed \$100,000 (cost).

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Department of Social Services (DSS) - Family Support Division (FSD)** state in 2013 there were a total of 2,775 blind pension cases. Currently, recipients of Blind Pension benefits are required to receive an examination by an ophthalmologist or optometrist every five years.

It is reasonable to estimate that one-fifth (20%) of those cases are due for an eye exam every year; (2,775 cases X 20% = 555 recipients). Based on past invoices provided by the Division of Finance and Administrative Services (DFAS), the average cost of a re-examination is \$176. The FSD estimates a yearly cost of approximately \$97,680 (\$176 X 555). It is unknown how many Blind Pension recipients would be deemed to have no usable vision; therefore, the cost savings to the General Revenue Fund is unknown, but less than \$100,000, annually.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2015 (10 Mo.)	FY 2016	FY 2017
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GENERAL REVENUE FUND

<u>Savings - DSS-FSD (\$209.040)</u>			
Reduced eye examinations	<u>Unknown, less than \$83,333</u>	<u>Unknown, less than \$100,000</u>	<u>Unknown, less than \$100,000</u>

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND	<u>Unknown, less than \$83,333</u>	<u>Unknown, less than \$100,000</u>	<u>Unknown, less than \$100,000</u>
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<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2015 (10 Mo.)	FY 2016	FY 2017
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

This proposal may minimally impact some small business ophthalmologists or optometrists as certain blind individuals will no longer have to receive a vision exam.

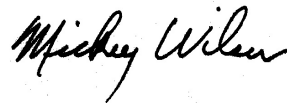
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This proposal specifies that individuals who have been deemed by specified medical professionals to have no usable vision must be exempt from the five-year re-examination requirement in order to continue to be eligible to receive blind pension benefits.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Social Services -
Family Support Division



Mickey Wilson, CPA
Director
March 27, 2014

Ross Strobe
Assistant Director
March 27, 2014