

HB 1564 -- BLIND PENSIONS

SPONSOR: Griffith

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill removes a requirement that any notice sent to an applicant or recipient of blind pension funds must be sent by certified mail. Instead, the bill allows the notice to be sent by any mail delivered by the United States Postal Service.

This bill is the same as HB 117(2021)and HB 1270 (2020).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the requirement for receipt of pension funds to be sent through certified mail can be onerous on blind individuals who may not have assistance or otherwise have the means of receiving certified mail. By removing the requirement that such mail be through certified mail, blind individuals will be able to receive pension payments they are entitled to much easier. Further, by removing the requirement that these pension payments be distributed through certified mail, the Department of Social Services anticipates saving over \$100,000 a year, beginning in Fiscal Year 2024.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Griffith and Rita Lynch, National Federation Of The Blind Of Missouri.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill submitted written testimony, which can be found online.

Testifying against the bill was Arnie C. Dienoff.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.