

FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

FINANCE

SB 123-FN, requiring coverage of ear acupuncture as a treatment for substance misuse under the state Medicaid plan.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 6-0.

Senator James Gray for the committee.

This bill would require the state Medicaid program to cover ear acupuncture as a treatment for substance abuse. DHHS estimates the bill's overall impact on state funds to be between \$1 million -\$5 million. The Department has confirmed there is still no change in the level of evidence backing the treatment. In addition, current state revenues continue to lag behind estimates. Therefore, committee members were not in support of the bill.