

HB 321 -- MISSOURI ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COUNCIL

SPONSOR: Yates

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Ways and Means by a vote of 16 to 0.

This bill creates the Assistive Technology Trust Fund, which will consist of federal grants, gifts, donations, bequests from individuals, private organizations, foundations, or other sources granted or given for assistive technology devices and services for individuals with disabilities. Moneys in the fund are to be used to establish and maintain assistive technology programs and services provided by Missouri Assistive Technology. The Missouri Assistive Technology Advisory Council is required to employ staff as necessary, enter into grants and contracts with public and private entities, and administer the fund.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will allow Missouri Assistive Technology to receive federal grants and donations to support their assistive technology services and programs. Missouri Assistive Technology operates a low-interest loan program and provides adaptive equipment to low-income disabled children and adults.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Yates and Pratt; Rita Lynch; and Missouri Assistive Technology.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Karla Strobel, Legislative Analyst