

HB 897 -- PRENEED FUNERAL CONTRACTS

SPONSOR: Houghton

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Government Efficiency by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass Not Consent" by the Committee on Consent and House Procedure by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill enables a guardian to execute a preneed contract for a ward's funeral services, or an irrevocable life insurance policy to pay for the ward's funeral services, and authorize the payment of such services from the ward's resources. The bill does not interfere with the rights of next-of-kin to direct the disposition of the body of the ward upon death. If such a preneed arrangement is in place and no next-of-kin exercises the right of sepulcher within seven days of the death of the ward, the guardian may sign consents for the disposition of the body without liability thereafter.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will allow a guardian to tend to the funeral needs of a ward.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Houghton; Gerard A. Nester, St. Louis City Public Administration; Karen Digh Allen, Missouri Public Administrators' Association; and Donald Otto, Missouri Funeral Directors.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.