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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/27/09  
 LAST UPDATED 03/17/09    HB 829/aHHGAC/aHFL#1

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SHORT TITLE Create Safe House Crisis Fund    SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Earnest

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$0.1*	Recurring	Safe House Crisis Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

\*See Fiscal Implications Section  
 Relates to House Bill 169 and House Bill 537.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)  
 Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of HFL Amendment #1

The House Floor Amendment #1 changes the contingency provision, as amended, to read:

“The provisions of this act shall become effective July 1, 2009 contingent upon the ~~adoption~~  
 of legislature’s failure to adopt House Bill 537 of the first session of the forty-ninth  
 legislature.

#### Synopsis of HHGAC Amendment

The House Health and Government Affairs Committee amendment makes enactment of this bill contingent on enactment of House Bill 537, instead of House Bill 169.

House Bill 537 would create a safe house crisis fund. As amended, if both House Bill 537 and House Bill 829 are enacted, two funds may be created in the treasury for the same purpose.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 829 creates the safe house crisis fund and appropriates any money in the fund to the Human Services Department to establish and maintain therapeutic safe house residences for person with behavioral health needs who are in crisis but do not require hospitalization. The bill is contingent on enactment of House Bill 169.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The bill does not make an appropriation but does create a new fund and provide for continuing appropriations.

The LFC has concerns with including continuing appropriation language in the statutory provisions for newly created funds, as earmarking reduces the ability of the legislature to establish spending priorities.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

A companion bill, HB169, would create the Safe House Act to offer early intervention services in the least restrictive environment for persons needing behavioral health support but not hospitalization. The bill appropriates \$4.1 million from the General Fund to the Human Services Department to establish a pilot program of five safe houses for persons experiencing behavioral health crises.

In addition, HB 537 would create the Safe House Act to offer early intervention services in the least restrictive environment for persons needing behavioral health support but not hospitalization. The bill requires HSD to operated two safe houses, one in an urban setting and one in a rural community. HB 537 does create a new fund.

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