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**Health Care Committee**

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**HB 2938**

**Brief Description:** Regarding long-term care financing.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Bailey, Cody, Morrell, Clibborn, Schindler, Armstrong, Woods, Schual-Berke, O'Brien, McDonald, Edwards, Wallace, Conway and Kagi.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Directs the Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services (Department) to contract for a study reviewing existing financial mechanisms and incentives for utilizing and purchasing long-term care services.
- The Department will also establish an information and referral process to assist people in arranging home equity conversion mortgages to pay for long-term care services.

**Hearing Date:** 2/3/04

**Staff:** Dave Knutson (786-7146).

**Background:**

Over the next 20 years, the portion of the population over age 65 will grow dramatically. The increased demand for long-term care services for the elderly will place greater burdens on the state operating budget.

**Summary of Bill:**

The Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services (Department) will contract for a study reviewing existing financial mechanisms and incentives for individuals to utilize and purchase long-term care services. The Department will also establish an information and referral process to assist people in arranging home equity conversion mortgages to pay for long-term care services.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 30, 2004.

**Effective Date:** The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.