

SUBJECT: Benefit plans created by religious groups

COMMITTEE: Retirement and Aging: favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes--Kuempel, Patronella, Sutton, Cooper, Heflin, Richardson
0 nays
3 absent--Clark, Finnell, Jones

SENATE VOTE: On third reading, March 26--30 ayes, 0 nays

WITNESSES: For--Will Davis, Church Alliance and Baptist Board
Against--None

DIGEST: SB 551 would allow religious groups to provide pension and insurance benefits to their ministers, teachers, employees, and other functionaries. Church benefit boards could be created to collect contributions and administer the benefit programs. The provision in the Insurance Code classifying certain programs as unauthorized insurance programs would not apply to these church-benefit programs.