

HB 1469 -- Health Insurance

Sponsor: Jolly

This bill creates the Missouri Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and revises the laws regarding health insurance.

MISSOURI HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The bill:

- (1) Requires health insurance coverage offered in the individual market, small group market, and large group market to comply with the act, and if applicable, the Small Employer Health Insurance Availability Act;
- (2) Creates numerous definitions including "affiliation period," "bona fide association," "excepted benefits," and "pre-existing condition exclusion";
- (3) Allows health insurers who offer group health insurance to impose or not impose a pre-existing condition exclusion in certain instances;
- (4) Requires health insurers who offer group health insurance to provide a certification of creditable coverage and special enrollment periods;
- (5) Allows health maintenance organizations who offer group health insurance coverage to provide an affiliation period;
- (6) Requires health insurers who offer group health insurance to comply with standards prohibiting discrimination when determining a client's eligibility;
- (7) Requires health insurers who offer group health insurance in a large group market to renew or to continue the coverage in force under specified conditions;
- (8) Specifies conditions when a health insurer can discontinue the offer of a particular type of group health insurance coverage;
- (9) Specifies conditions of renewal for group health insurance plans offered in large group markets;
- (10) Requires health insurers who provide individual insurance coverage to renew or continue the coverage in force at the request of an individual;

(11) Specifies conditions when health insurers can discontinue health insurance coverage in individual markets; and

(12) Specifies conditions of renewal for individual health insurance policies offered in individual markets.

GROUP HEALTH CONVERSION POLICIES

The bill prohibits premium rates for group health conversion policies from exceeding the premium rates charged by the Missouri Health Insurance Pool for similar coverage.

MISSOURI HEALTH INSURANCE POOL

The bill:

(1) Creates numerous definitions including "church plan," "creditable coverage," "federally defined eligible individual," and "trade act eligible individual";

(2) Increases the size of the board of trustees for the pool to eight members;

(3) Makes changes in the eligibility requirements for participation in the pool;

(4) Requires health insurers who take certain actions based on underwriting considerations to notify all affected persons about the availability of the pool;

(5) Revises provisions regarding the computation of assessments for participation in the pool and pool assessment offsets;

(6) Requires the pool to establish the premium rates for coverage provided by the pool; and

(7) Establishes conditions prohibiting the application of pre-existing condition exclusions for federally defined eligible persons.

MISSOURI SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH INSURANCE AVAILABILITY ACT

The bill:

(1) Creates numerous definitions including "bona fide association," "church plan," "creditable coverage," and "excepted benefits";

(2) Contains provisions concerning the renewal and non-renewal of health insurance coverage;

(3) Requires health benefit plans covering small employers to comply with sections contained in the Missouri Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act;

(4) Requires small employer carriers to offer all health benefit plans that are offered to small employers in Missouri;

(5) Prohibits the Missouri Small Employer Health Reinsurance Program from accepting new risks or renewing existing risks on or after October 1, 2004. Program assets or moneys exceeding a certain amount or moneys that remain after a certain date will be transferred to the Missouri Health Insurance Pool; and

(6) Repeals the Missouri Small Employer Health Reinsurance Program effective December 31, 2005.