

HB 1526 -- Preventative and Primary Health Care Services

Sponsor: Muckler

This bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services, in consultation with the Department of Social Services, to create a program which provides preventative and primary health care services. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires the program to improve the health status of low-income pregnant women, mothers, and children. The program will promote responsible sexual behavior by recipients of the program by teaching abstinence and promoting childbirth over abortion;
- (2) Requires collaborative efforts by the directors of both departments for the purpose of preparing a statewide needs assessment which identifies health care services for pregnant women, mothers, children, and infants up to one year of age;
- (3) Specifies the functions of the program which includes assuring recipients of the availability of health care services, providing family-centered and community-based coordinated health care for children, and promoting the benefits of abstinence;
- (4) Requires grants or contractual arrangements made by the program to give preference to agencies that promote abstinence;
- (5) Prohibits funds from being expended directly or indirectly for abortion services. Entities which are affiliated entities can receive public funds if they are classified as independent affiliates;
- (6) Prohibits entities that receive public funds from displaying or distributing materials promoting abortion services;
- (7) Requires entities that provide counseling to pregnant women and who receive public funds to only provide non-directive pregnancy counseling;
- (8) Requires entities that receive public funds in connection with the program to maintain records that demonstrate strict compliance with program requirements;
- (9) Requires an independent audit of entities that receive public funds in connection with the program to be conducted at least once every three years. If an entity that receives public funds is affiliated with an entity that provides abortion services, an audit must be conducted each year to ensure compliance with program requirements; and

(10) Includes exceptions for reimbursement to entities that provide services that are required under federal Medicaid regulations and certain services required under the federal family planning program.

The provisions of the bill will expire six years from the effective date.