

HCS HB 827 -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR EMPLOYED PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

SPONSOR: Phillips (Portwood)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Senior Citizen Advocacy by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute requires the Department of Social Services to determine the eligibility of an employed disabled person requesting medical assistance under the federal Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999. The substitute:

- (1) Requires an applicant to work at least 40 hours per month, have a gross annual income of less than \$18,000, and pay a one-time \$65 application fee;
- (2) Specifies that an individual's personal assets cannot exceed \$1,000, while a couple's assets cannot exceed \$2,000;
- (3) Specifies that an independent living development account with a value less than \$10,000 per year, a medical expense account with a value less than \$5,000 per year, and a combined spousal income up to \$32,500 per year will not be considered assets for determining eligibility;
- (4) Specifies that an individual whose income is greater than 80% of the federal poverty guidelines will have to pay a premium between \$100 and \$400 based on their previous month's income;
- (5) Specifies that any person's income exceeding the limit for permanent and total disability benefits in Section 208.151, RSMo, will pay a premium equal to the amount of a person's spend down amount;
- (6) Specifies that nonpayment of a premium will result in the denial or termination of medical assistance;
- (7) Requires the Family Support Division to conduct an annual income and eligibility review of every recipient at least once a year during the month of February. Persons renewing their applications are to provide documentation of eligibility each year or be denied participation in the program for that year;
- (8) Prohibits an individual who is eligible under this section but is also eligible for Medicaid and the federal Medicare Program from being eligible for continued prescription drugs or medication assistance; and
- (9) Allows an individual who has been enrolled for four

consecutive months and lost his or her job due to a medical condition or some other reason not attributable to the enrollee to retain eligibility in this program for an additional three months.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Income on General Revenue Fund of Less than \$25,352,268 in FY 2006, Less than \$25,340,799 in FY 2007, and Less than \$25,338,745 in FY 2008. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is necessary to encourage disabled persons to return to work and to show that the state cares about the disabled.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Portwood and Wright (137); Family Support Division; Missouri Kidney Program; Missouri Association for Social Welfare; Wayne Lee; Brenda Benedict; Kirsten Dunham; Nancy Norman; Karren Jones; Richard Stevenson; Barbara French; Margaret Jorgensen; Kimberly Sternemann; Gary Copeland; Cindy Keel; and Bob Whitlock.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the number of hours an employed disabled must work each month and the premiums should be reduced.

Others testifying on the bill were Disability Resource Association of Jefferson City, Incorporated; and Rob Bowling.

Dominic Lackey, Legislative Analyst