

HB 970 -- Adoption Subsidies

Sponsor: Yates

This bill changes the eligibility criteria for the receipt of an adoption or foster care subsidy. The bill:

(1) Specifies that a subsidy is available to families with an income of 300% of the federal poverty limit, unless the child is considered to have a special need or is eligible for federal Title IV-E adoption assistance;

(2) Specifies that all children regardless of family income are automatically eligible for assistance in the Missouri Medicaid Program until the child reaches the age of 18 or the age of 21 if the child has a special condition;

(3) Allows for subsidized child care until the child turns 13 years old; and

(4) Requires the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services to promulgate rules defining special needs by examining the mental, emotional, or physical disability and the difficulty in placement associated with the care and maintenance of the child.