

HB 1491 -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

SPONSOR: Walton

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Veterans by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill requires the Family Support Division of the Department of Social Services to determine whether an individual who is applying for Missouri Medicaid Program benefits is eligible for federal medical services from the Missouri Veterans Commission. If an applicant or recipient is eligible for the federal medical services, the division must urge the person to utilize these benefits. The division must consult with the commission regarding a method that can be used to determine whether an individual who receives state medical assistance is eligible for the federal benefits. The bill does not require an individual to exhaust any federal veterans' benefits prior to receiving state medical assistance.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill could save the state more than \$5 million by reducing the burden on Missouri's Medicaid Program. When a person enters a nursing home, the Division of Family Services is required to ask if the individual is a veteran. If the person is a veteran, the division will encourage him or her to sign up for federally funded veterans' benefits, instead of opting to receive state-funded Medicaid benefits.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Walton.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst