

HB 1805 -- Health Care Payroll Assessments

Sponsor: Corcoran

Beginning January 1, 2007, this bill establishes a program within the Department of Social Services to supplement the state's Medicaid Program by reimbursing health care providers for uncompensated medical treatment. The departments of Insurance and Labor and Industrial Relations will provide assistance in implementing the program. The bill:

(1) Requires private employers, beginning February 1, 2007, and annually thereafter, to submit to the Department of Social Services the total number of employees, amount spent on employer-sponsored health care benefits, number of employees covered by the federal Medicare Program, and other information deemed necessary;

(2) Requires the Department of Insurance, beginning March 1, 2007, and annually thereafter, to calculate the average cost of employer-sponsored health care benefits per employee in Missouri;

(3) Requires private employers, beginning July 1, 2007, who employ at least 7,500 employees and spend less than Missouri's average cost per employee to pay a surcharge based on an amount equal to the average cost minus the amount the employer actually spends per employee. A nonprofit organization's surcharge will be that amount times the number of employees, and a for-profit organization's surcharge will be that amount plus 2% times the number of employees;

(4) Subjects employers failing to report as required to an administrative penalty of \$250 for each day the report is not timely filed; and

(5) Requires any surcharges or penalties collected to be paid into the Uncompensated Care Fund. Upon appropriation, money in the fund will be used solely to reimburse licensed hospitals and federally qualified health centers providing uncompensated care to patients as state Medicaid providers.