

HCS HB 1868 -- HEALTH CARE RESPONSIBILITY ACT

SPONSOR: Hunter (Faith)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Workforce Development and Workplace Safety by a vote of 8 to 5.

This substitute establishes the Health Care Responsibility Act which requires applicants for Missouri Medicaid Program benefits to identify their employers. If an applicant is not employed, the individual must identify the employer of any adult who is responsible for providing his or her support whether the beneficiary receiving medical assistance under the federal Social Security Act and whether the beneficiary is a full-time, part-time, or seasonal employee.

The Department of Social Services must submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly within 30 days of the end of each calendar year, beginning with 2007. The report must provide information on each employer including private employers, the State of Missouri, and any political subdivision of the state that have more than 50 employees with at least 25 of them receiving Medicaid assistance. For each employer, the report must identify the employer's name and address; number of program beneficiaries; number of beneficiaries who are spouses or dependents of employees; whether the employer offers health insurance benefits and, if offered, the level of premium subsidies; whether the employer receives health insurance benefits through the company; and the state's cost of providing Medicaid benefits for the employer's employees and enrolled dependents.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Greater than \$169,500 in FY 2007, \$0 in FY 2008, and \$0 in FY 2009. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill provides a tracking mechanism to facilitate statistical analysis of Missouri employees' health care and participation in Medicaid. Thirteen other states with similar tracking mechanisms statistical analysis indicate that an increasing number of Medicaid recipients are employed by large companies.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Faith and Zweifel; Robert Kelley, Mid-America Joint Retail Labor Management Committee; Missouri Hospital Association; and Missouri AFL-CIO.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the reporting provisions of the bill are onerous and that the bill is the first step in the state requiring employer-provided employee health

insurance.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Restaurant Association; National Federation of Independent Business; St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition; and Associated Industries of Missouri.

Roland Tackett, Legislative Analyst