

HCS HB 2354 -- HEALTH CARE BENEFITS AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

SPONSOR: Portwood

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Ticket to Work by a vote of 8 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding health care benefits and medical assistance.

INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR MODIFICATIONS TO A HOME OF A DISABLED PERSON

The substitute increases the cap from \$100,000 to \$1 million for the income tax credit for certain individuals for the costs of modifications to make a disabled person's home accessible if there are available tax credits remaining from the tax credit for businesses relocating to a distressed community.

TICKET TO WORK HEALTH ASSURANCE PROGRAM

Currently, to determine net income for eligibility under the Ticket to Work Health Assurance Program, the first \$50 of Social Security Disability Income payments is disregarded. The substitute increases the disregarded income to the first \$250.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PROVIDER REIMBURSEMENT

The substitute specifies that under the MO HealthNet Program, the successor to the Missouri Medicaid Program, providers can receive enhanced reimbursement for certain services. Subject to appropriations, the enhanced rate will be 100% of the federal Medicare reimbursement rate for new patients and established patients. In order to qualify for the enhanced reimbursement, the provider must:

- (1) Become the health care home for a MO HealthNet patient;
- (2) Complete a patient history and consultation for the patient; and
- (3) File a treatment plan for the patient.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Unknown but Greater than \$21,618,312 in FY 2009, Unknown but Greater than \$27,057,245 in FY 2010, and Unknown but Greater than \$28,270,321 in FY 2011. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that adjusting the Social Security

Disability Insurance disregard will allow eligible participants to work more; changes to the tax credit for home modifications will prevent people from having to increase the services they use; and modifying physician reimbursement rates will be an incentive for physicians to see more MO HealthNet Program patients.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Portwood; Paraquad, Incorporated; National Multiple Sclerosis Society; Missouri Catholic Conference; Missouri Voice of the Retarded; Bellefontaine Parent Association; Greater St. Louis Parent Association; and Higginsville Parent Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.