

HB 2354 -- Medical Assistance Program

Sponsor: Portwood

This bill changes the laws regarding medical assistance and provider reimbursement.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME WORKERS

A medical assistance program is established for certain individuals with a temporary disability or the parent of a minor child. Eligible individuals are required to:

- (1) Have earned income;
- (2) Meet certain asset limits;
- (3) Have net income that does not exceed the limit for permanent and totally disabled individuals to receive nonspenddown MO HealthNet Program benefits; and
- (4) Have a gross income of 250% or less of the federal poverty level.

The bill specifies which types of income will be disregarded when determining an individual's net income. Individuals with an income above 100% of the federal poverty level will be required to pay a percent of their income as a premium for participation in the program. Participants are required to report any change in income or household size within 10 days of the change. If a participant has access to employer-sponsored health insurance and the Department of Social Services determines that it is more cost effective, the department must pay the participant's portion of the premiums, co-payments, and other associated costs for participation in the employer-sponsored health insurance. The department is required to obtain any necessary waivers or state plan amendments to obtain the federal funding necessary to provide medical assistance.

ENHANCED PROVIDER REIMBURSEMENTS

Providers under the program are allowed to receive enhanced reimbursement for certain services. The enhanced rate will be 120% of the federal Medicare reimbursement rate for new patients and 110% for established patients. In order to qualify for the enhanced reimbursement, the provider must:

- (1) Become the health care home for a patient;
- (2) Complete a patient history and consultation for the patient;

and

(3) File a treatment plan for the patient.

The provisions regarding medical assistance for low-income workers will expire six years from August 28, 2008.