

HB 1580 -- PRESCRIBED FOOD SUPPLEMENTS

SPONSOR: Higdon

This bill requires each health carrier or health benefit plan that offers or issues health benefit plans delivered, issued for delivery, continued, or renewed in Missouri on or after January 1, 2015, to provide coverage for food supplements prescribed by a physician acting within the scope of his or her practice. A health carrier or health benefit plan must not:

- (1) Deny eligibility or continued eligibility to an individual to enroll or renew coverage under the terms of the plan solely for the purpose of avoiding the requirements of the bill;
- (2) Provide monetary payments, rebates, or other benefits to individuals to encourage individuals to accept less than the minimum protections available under the provisions of the bill;
- (3) Penalize or otherwise reduce or limit the reimbursement of a provider because he or she prescribed food supplements to an individual participant or beneficiary in accordance with the provisions of the bill; or
- (4) Provide monetary or other incentives to a provider to induce him or her to provide care to an individual participant or beneficiary in a manner inconsistent with the provisions of the bill.

The bill defines "food supplements" as products intended to supplement the diet that are labeled as food, nutritional, or dietary supplements; are not represented as conventional foods or as sole items of a meal or the diet; and contain one or more of the following dietary ingredients: a vitamin; a mineral; an herb or other botanical; an amino acid; a dietary substance to supplement the diet by increasing the total dietary intake; or a concentrate, metabolite, constituent, extract, or combination of any ingredient listed.

Certain supplemental insurance policies are not subject to the food supplement coverage requirements.

The coverage required by the provisions of the bill must not be subject to any greater deductible or co-payment than other coverage provided by the health benefit plan.