

HCS HB 1685 -- SHORT-TERM MAJOR MEDICAL POLICIES

SPONSOR: Hill

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Insurance Policy by a vote of 9 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 10 to 3.

This bill exempts short-term major medical policies from several health insurance mandates in Chapter 376, RSMo, and allows such policies to have a term of less than one year. Currently, the term limit is up to six months duration.

The bill requires the fact page of all short-term major medical policies to include a disclosure stating "This policy may not cover preexisting conditions, including conditions you may currently have and are unaware of but are not diagnosed until the policy's term. This policy may not cover certain essential health benefits, including prescription drugs, preventative care, and emergency services. Before you realize benefits under this policy, you may be responsible for a deductible and/or coinsurance. Be sure to discuss these items with your insurance broker before purchasing a short-term medical policy."

This bill is similar to HB 708 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will exempt short term policies from many health insurance mandates and increase the term limit from six months to a period of less than a year. This could help families get more affordable health insurance coverage.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hill; Anthem, Inc; and Matt Barton, Missouri Association of Insurance Agents.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.