

HCS HB 466 -- PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANT SERVICES

SPONSOR: Wood

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Aging by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill adds structured family caregiving as an agency-directed model to the MO HealthNet Program to ensure the availability of comprehensive and cost-effective choices for a MO HealthNet participant who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's or a related disorder to live at home in the community of his or her choice and to receive support from a caregiver of his or her choice.

The bill specifies that the structured family caregiving waiver must include a cap of 300 participants.

Within 90 days of the effective date of these provisions, the Department of Social Services must, if necessary to implement the provisions of this section, apply to the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services for a structured family caregiver waiver under Section 1915(c) of the Federal Social Security Act. The department must request an effective date of not later than July 1, 2020, and must take all administrative actions necessary to ensure time and equitable availability of structured family caregiving services for any home- and community-based care participant.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 1885 and HB 2500 (2018) and HCS HB 455 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will provide a significant savings in keeping patients out of Medicaid beds and giving them their preferred option of being cared for at home, by a family member.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wood; Alzheimers Association; and Lois Long.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.