

HB 554 -- MEDICAID BUY-IN

SPONSOR: Kendrick

This bill requires the Joint Committee on Legislative Research to investigate the merits of the state offering a Medicaid buy-in program. The investigation must consider the viability, merits, and challenges of the following options:

(1) A targeted Medicaid buy-in, where the state offers Medicaid-like coverage off the exchange to those not eligible for Medicaid, Medicare, or subsidized exchange coverage;

(2) A qualified health plan public option, where the state offers a lower cost product on the exchange to individuals and small employers in partnership with an existing insurer;

(3) A basic health program, where the state offers coverage for individuals with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level who are not Medicaid-eligible; and

(4) A Medicaid buy-in program for all, where the state offers Medicaid-like coverage for everyone except individuals covered by Medicare, as a low-cost option off the exchange.

The committee must make findings of the fiscal implications of a Medicaid buy-in, the stability of the health care market and exchange, the rate at which individuals in the state are uninsured, and the ways in which a Medicaid buy-in would contribute to health care outcomes and overall health and welfare.

The committee must consult with a variety of different stakeholders, as specified in the bill. The committee must make any reports available for comment and must produce a final report before August 30, 2022. The committee must submit progress reports annually. All reports must be submitted to the Speaker of the House, House Minority Floor Leader, President Pro Tem of the Senate, and Senate Minority Leader.