

HCS HB 654 -- CREDENTIALING PROCEDURE

SPONSOR: Neely

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill requires a health carrier to provide retroactive payments for any services performed by a practitioner during the application period, once a practitioner has been credentialed or re-credentialed with a health carrier. The application period begins once a fully completed application has been submitted.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that because the credentialing process can be lengthy, this bill will help small practices get reimbursed for the services they provide before the process is complete. Physicians in hospitals or rural areas don't really have the option to not treat patients while they are waiting for the credentialing process to be complete.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Neely; Missouri Association of Rural Health Clinics, Cox Healthcare; Missouri Academy of Family Physicians; Missouri Psychological Association; Missouri State Medical Association; and the Missouri Hospital Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that some companies do already reimburse physicians for services performed during the credentialing, so this legislation is unnecessary for most companies. There may also be issues with companies having to pay interest on the reimbursed money after this legislation passes.

Testifying against the bill were Blue Cross Blue Shield, American Health Insurance Plans, Missouri Insurance Coalition; and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill went on record as testifying for informational purposes only and made themselves available to answer any questions.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Association of Health Plans.