

HB 1049 -- HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS

SPONSOR: Wood

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Budget by a vote of 28 to 2. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill clarifies existing language about parents providing health insurance in cases of child support. The bill specifies that in an IV-D case, the division shall require that a child be covered under a private health plan whenever such a health benefit plan is available through a parent's employer or union.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the Office of Child Support Enforcement recently sent a letter to the MO Family Support Division regarding noncompliance with a federal rule change from 2017. This legislation makes Missouri compliant and if it is not passed, the state would risk losing the full IV-D federal share of expenditures for Missouri's IV-D program, including incentive payments and the TANF block grant.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wood and the Department of Social Services.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.