

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 332

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT.

1072H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 208, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to eligibility for MO HealthNet benefits.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 208, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 208.057, to read as follows:

208.057. 1. For purposes of this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Dependent", a person who is receiving MO HealthNet benefits whose eligibility is at least partly based on the income level of another person or persons;

(2) "Recipient", a person receiving MO HealthNet benefits for his or her own health care needs;

(3) "Recipient caretaker", a person who is not receiving MO HealthNet benefits for his or her own health care needs but whose income level affects the MO HealthNet eligibility of another person who is receiving MO HealthNet benefits.

2. The department of social services shall establish a program to assist recipients and recipient caretakers while they work toward gaining employment, increasing income, or obtaining work-related education or training. Participation in the program shall be voluntary. The program is intended to allow recipients and recipient caretakers who are capable of working to maintain MO HealthNet benefits for themselves or their dependents while they obtain gainful employment, with the goal of each recipient and recipient caretaker eventually having an income level that is sufficient for him or her or his or her dependent or dependents to transition to a commercial insurance program.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 **3. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any recipient or recipient caretaker**
18 **who becomes ineligible for MO HealthNet benefits or whose dependent becomes ineligible**
19 **for MO Healthnet benefits due to increased income from employment may retain eligibility**
20 **for such benefits for himself or herself or his or her dependent if such recipient or recipient**
21 **caretaker pays a premium as a participant in the program established under this section.**

22 **4. The monthly premium charged for each person who retains eligibility for MO**
23 **HealthNet benefits as described under subsection 3 of this section shall be calculated as**
24 **follows:**

25 **(1) For recipients or recipient caretakers whose income exceeds the maximum**
26 **allowable monthly income level for the applicable family size by no more than five hundred**
27 **dollars, twenty-five percent of the amount by which the recipient's or recipient caretaker's**
28 **income exceeds such maximum;**

29 **(2) For recipients or recipient caretakers whose income exceeds the maximum**
30 **allowable monthly income level for the applicable family size by more than five hundred**
31 **dollars but no more than one thousand dollars, fifty percent of the amount by which the**
32 **recipient's or recipient caretaker's income exceeds such maximum; and**

33 **(3) For recipients or recipient caretakers whose income exceeds the maximum**
34 **allowable monthly income level for the applicable family size by more than one thousand**
35 **dollars, seventy-five percent of the amount by which the recipient's or recipient caretaker's**
36 **income exceeds such maximum.**

37 **5. The recipient or recipient caretaker shall pay the premium on a monthly basis**
38 **or on a different periodic basis if through a payroll deduction consistent with the payroll**
39 **period of the recipient's or recipient caretaker's employer.**

40 **6. Participants in the program who fail to pay the premium owed shall lose all MO**
41 **HealthNet benefits for themselves or their dependents after sixty days of nonpayment.**

42 **7. The department of social services shall develop a payroll deduction program in**
43 **conjunction with the department of revenue and shall promulgate rules for the payment**
44 **of premiums through such payroll deduction program or via an alternate method to be**
45 **determined by the department of social services.**

46 **8. The department of social services shall pursue all necessary waivers from the**
47 **federal government to implement this section.**

48 **9. Participants in the program shall also be eligible for voluntary training**
49 **regarding interview skills, education options, and other necessary tools in order to broaden**
50 **their employment opportunities or pursue their desired career field.**

51 **10. The department of social services shall promulgate all necessary rules and**
52 **regulations for the administration of this section including, but not limited to, rules related**

53 to premium amounts to be set for recipients and recipient caretakers under the program
54 and rules for the payment of premiums through an optional payroll deduction program
55 and through an optional payment method. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is
56 defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall
57 become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter
58 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable, and
59 if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536 to review,
60 to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held
61 unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or adopted
62 after August 28, 2021, shall be invalid and void.

63 11. Under section 23.253 of the Missouri sunset act:

64 (1) The provisions of the new program authorized under this section shall
65 automatically sunset five years after the effective date of this section unless reauthorized
66 by an act of the general assembly; and

67 (2) If such program is reauthorized, the program authorized under this section
68 shall automatically sunset five years after the effective date of the reauthorization of this
69 section; and

70 (3) This section shall terminate on September first of the calendar year immediately
71 following the calendar year in which the program authorized under this section is sunset.

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