

HCS SS SCS SBs 45 & 90 -- MO HEALTHNET

SPONSOR: Gannon (Davidson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 15 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 2.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for SB 45.

Currently, low-income pregnant and postpartum women receiving benefits through MO HealthNet for Pregnant Women or Show-Me Healthy Babies are eligible for pregnancy-related coverage throughout the pregnancy and for 60 days following the end of the pregnancy. As specified in this bill, MO HealthNet coverage for these low-income women will include full Medicaid benefits for the duration of the pregnancy and for one year following the end of the pregnancy. The Department shall submit any necessary state plan amendments or waivers, as described in the bill.

As specified in this bill, the state shall not provide any payments, add-ons, or reimbursements to health care providers through MO HealthNet for medical assistance services to persons who are not considered Missouri residents under federal regulations.

Finally, within 30 days of the effective date of this bill, the Department of Social Services shall resume annual MO HealthNet eligibility redeterminations, renewals, and post-enrollment verifications.

This bill has an emergency clause.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the Senate Perfected version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that Missouri has a responsibility to better address the high rates of maternal mortality in the state. Roughly 75% of maternal deaths in Missouri are preventable with access to adequate health care. This bill effects real people, and vulnerable people. Missouri is a pro-life state, and this bill aligns with this principle. Good outcomes for mothers results in good outcomes for infants. This bill will also save Missouri tax payers in many ways. Some supporters believe there are some problematic provisions that need to be removed or otherwise

addressed in the bill, but that overall the bill is positive for mothers in providing the opportunity for access to adequate care.

Testifying in person for the bill were Senator Gannon; Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics; Jamie Morris, Missouri Catholic Conference; Campaign Life Missouri; Arnie C. Dienoff; Missouri Right to Life; American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network; Missouri Hospital Association; Mosaic Life Care; Catholic Charities Archdiocese of St. Louis; Mo College of Emergency Physicians, Mo Coalition for Children, Health Forward Foundation, Missouri Center for Public Health Excellence, Signature Medical Group, Mo Dental Association; Mistie Mills, MD, American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists; Missouri State Medical Association; Missouri Kidsfirst, Kids Win Missouri, National Assn. of Social Workers Mo Chapter, BJC Healthcare, Coxhealth, St. Louis County, Children's Trust Fund, and the Missouri Association of Rural Health Clinics.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that while the intent behind the bill is good, there is some language that was ultimately voted out by the Senate that cannot be supported.

Testifying in person against the bill were Pro Choice Missouri; and Planned Parenthood Great Plains Votes.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say federal approval of any state plan amendment is critical for this policy to become reality and not just be performative. This bill must be shepherded cleanly through the legislative process to ensure an effective implementation. While supporting expanded access to health care is important, some of the language in the bill is problematic and jeopardizes full and meaningful implementation.

Testifying in person on the bill were American Heart Association; and the Missouri Family Health Council.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under "House Testimony on Senate Bills" on the House website.