

HCS HJR 154 -- MO HEALTHNET SERVICES

SPONSOR: Chappell

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Legislative Review by a vote of 5 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 9 to 3.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HJR 154.

If approved by voters, this constitutional amendment would require the Department of Social Services, MO HealthNet Division to implement work requirements for applicable individuals, as defined in the bill.

Applicable individuals must demonstrate compliance with the work requirements for the month preceding the month during which the individual applies, and no applicable individual will remain enrolled in MO HealthNet unless compliance has been demonstrated. The bill specifies that those seeking an exemption from the work requirements must provide documentation for the exemption sought.

The Department is prohibited from seeking or implementing any additional optional exemptions provided for by federal law, unless a general statute law expressly authorizes the implementation of the exemption. Additionally, the Department is prohibited from accepting exemption designations, approvals, or determinations by a managed care organization.

Currently, the Department is required to take all actions necessary to maximize federal financial participation in funding medical assistance. This bill repeals that requirement.

Currently, no greater or additional burdens or restrictions on eligibility or enrollment standard, methodologies, or practices can be imposed on persons eligible for MO HealthNet services than on any other population eligible for medical assistance. This bill repeals that restriction.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this provision is coming to the State regardless of whether this amendment passes, and the goal is to move people away from dependency and give them the dignity and pride to work. Several other states have been approved for their waivers at this point, with more on the way.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Chappell; FGA Action; and Arnie C. Dienoff.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that this could unnecessarily tie the State's hands if Federal law were to change again. There is additional ambiguity for states until the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services interprets the Federal provisions and provides guidance to states. This is the least flexible version of the Federal law to adopt.

Testifying in person against the bill were the American Heart Association; Brian Colby, Missouri Budget Project; AARP - Missouri; and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

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