

HB 390 -- KidCare Co-op Program

Sponsor: Holsman

Subject to appropriations, this bill establishes a public option, nonprofit health insurance cooperative, the KidCare Co-op Program, within the Department of Social Services to provide affordable health insurance to children through 18 years of age. Eligibility for the co-op will not be subject to income limits, but each child covered will be subject to a:

- (1) \$25 monthly premium;
- (2) \$15 co-payment for physician office visits;
- (3) \$35 co-payment for urgent care visits; and
- (4) \$50 co-payment for emergency room visits.

The department must establish regulations for the coverage amounts and maximums and the criteria for health carriers and health benefit plans to participate in the program. The program may be operated in conjunction with the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) by screening and offering coverage to children who are not eligible for SCHIP.