

HCS HB 827 -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR EMPLOYED PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (Portwood)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Senior Citizen Advocacy

This substitute requires the Department of Social Services to determine the eligibility of an employed disabled person requesting medical assistance whose family income is less than 250% of the federal poverty level. The substitute:

- (1) Requires an applicant to work at least 40 hours per month, have a gross annual income of less than \$18,000, and pay a \$65 application fee;
- (2) Specifies that an individual's personal assets cannot exceed \$1,000, while a couple's assets cannot exceed \$2,000;
- (3) Specifies that an independent living development account with a value less than \$10,000 per year, a medical expense account with a value less than \$5,000 per year, and a combined spousal income up to \$32,500 per year will not be considered assets for determining eligibility;
- (4) Specifies that an individual whose income is greater than 80% of the federal poverty level will have to pay a premium between \$100 and \$400 based on their previous month's income;
- (5) Specifies that any person's income exceeding the limit for permanent and total disability benefits in Section 208.151, RSMo, will pay a premium equal to the amount of a person's spend down amount;
- (6) Specifies that nonpayment of a premium will result in the denial or termination of medical assistance;
- (7) Requires the Family Support Division to conduct an annual income and eligibility review of every recipient at least once a year, no later than 12 months after the recipient's last eligibility determination. Persons renewing their applications are to provide documentation of eligibility each year or be denied participation in the program for that year;
- (8) Prohibits an individual who is eligible under this section but is also eligible for the Missouri Medicaid Program and the federal Medicare Program from being eligible for continued prescription drug or medication assistance;
- (9) Allows an individual who has been enrolled for four consecutive months and lost his or her job due to a medical condition or some other reason not attributable to the enrollee

to retain eligibility in this program for an additional three months; and

(10) Specifies that medical assistance will only be available if annual appropriations are made for eligibility. The substitute does not apply to persons already receiving aid or assistance under certain state plans.

The provisions of the substitute will expire six years from the effective date.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Income on General Revenue Fund of Less than \$25,352,268 in FY 2006, Less than \$25,340,799 in FY 2007, and Less than \$25,338,745 in FY 2008. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.