

HCS SS SCS SB 74 & 49 -- DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

This bill changes the laws regarding programs administered by the Department of Health and Senior Services. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Specifies that beginning April 1, 2007, immunizations administered to children under the age of three and to knowingly pregnant women cannot contain more than one microgram of mercury per five-tenths milliliter dose;
- (2) Allows the department director to exempt the use of a vaccine from compliance with the mercury requirement in the event of a public health emergency;
- (3) Specifies that newborn screening requirements are not limited to the disorders and conditions currently listed in law;
- (4) Requires health care employers to make information available to employees about the risk of exposure to hepatitis C;
- (5) Requires the department to maintain a Missouri hepatitis C web site containing information about hepatitis and the availability of testing for hepatitis C;
- (6) Creates in the state treasury the Department of Health and Senior Services Administrative and Cost Allocation Fund and the Department of Health and Senior Services Disaster Fund. The administrative and cost allocation fund will receive funding by appropriations, deposits, and moneys transferred or paid to the department in return for goods and services provided. The disaster fund will be used during a state of emergency at the direction of the Governor to furnish immediate aid and relief;
- (7) Allows any interest earned on the Missouri Public Health Services Fund to accrue to the fund and not lapse to the credit of the general revenue at the end of the biennium;
- (8) Requires a birth certificate to be filed within five days, instead of the current seven days, certifying the place, time, and date of the live birth by a signature or an electronic process approved by the department;
- (9) Allows medical certifications filed when applying for a certificate of death to have their accuracy attested by either a signature or an electronic process approved by the department;
- (10) Allows prescription information to be submitted electronically;
- (11) Establishes the Missouri Senior Advocacy and Efficiency Commission within the department and specifies the commission's duties; and

(12) Authorizes the department to provide financial assistance for consumer-directed personal care assistance services to qualified individuals who are not eligible for the Missouri Medicaid Program and specifies the eligibility guidelines.

Certain sections of the bill contain an emergency clause.