

HCS HB 95 -- PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

SPONSOR: Wilson, 130 (Sater)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Health Insurance by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding Missouri Medicaid Program payments and establishes a health insurance premium assistance program.

#### MISSOURI MEDICAID PROGRAM

All entities are required to process and pay all properly submitted Missouri Medicaid Program subrogation claims for a period of two years from the date the service was provided. The Division of Medical Services within the Department of Social Services can request all third-party payers to provide information contained in a 270/271 Health Care Eligibility Benefit Inquiry and Response standard transaction mandated under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

#### HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Family Support Division within the department must apply for waivers from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services for the purpose of increasing access to health care in Missouri, reforming the Missouri Medicaid Program, and enabling small employers and employed uninsured adults to purchase flexible health care benefit packages through a state premium assistance payment plan. Any funding received will be deposited into the Health Employee and Economy Improvement Revolving Fund.

The provisions of the substitute regarding the health insurance premium assistance program will expire six years from the effective date.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Income on General Revenue Fund of Unknown but Greater than \$195,651 in FY 2008, Unknown but Greater than \$234,875 in FY 2009, and Unknown but Greater than \$234,875 in FY 2010. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROponents: Supporters say that the bill is similar to legislation that was passed in Oklahoma and has been successful. The bill does not imply a universal health care concept and only addresses the intent to start a program to assist those currently unable to purchase health insurance, a means to acquire health insurance, and ultimately lower the number of uninsured

Missourians.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Sater; and Missouri Hospital Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.