

HB 423 -- HEALTH CARE COMPACT

This bill authorizes Missouri to adopt the provisions of the Health Care Compact to improve health care policy within the states by securing consent from the United States Congress to return the authority to regulate health care to the states that have adopted the compact by specifying that the state legislatures have the primary responsibility to regulate health care in their respective states. Missouri and other states that join the compact may suspend federal laws, rules, regulations, and orders regarding health care that are inconsistent with the laws and regulations adopted by the member state pursuant to the compact.

Each member state will have the right to a specified amount of federal funds each fiscal year to support the exercise of the member state's authority under the compact. The federal funding cannot be conditional on any action of or regulation, policy, law, or rule being adopted by the member state. At the beginning of each fiscal year, Congress must establish an initial funding level for each member state that must be calculated based on information provided by each member state and audited by the United States Government Accountability Office.

The Interstate Advisory Health Care Commission is established to study the issues of health care regulation of particular concern to the member states and may make nonbinding recommendations to them. The commission must collect information and data to assist the member states in their regulation of health care, including assessing the performance of various state health care programs and compiling information on health care prices, and must make this information and data available to the legislatures of the member states. The commission must not take any action within a member state that conflicts with any state law of that state.

The compact will become effective upon adoption by at least two member states and the consent of Congress unless Congress, in consenting to the compact, alters its fundamental purposes.

The compact can be amended by the unanimous agreement of the member states; and any amendment will be effective unless, within one year of its adoption, Congress disapproves the amendment.

Any member state may withdraw from the compact by adopting a law to that effect but no withdrawal can take effect until six months after the governor of the withdrawing member state gives notice of the withdrawal to the other member states. The compact must be dissolved upon the withdrawal of all but one of the member states.