

HB 955 -- MO HealthNet Program

Sponsor: Nichols

This bill changes the law regarding the MO HealthNet Program. In its provisions, the bill:

(1) Requires individuals to be a Missouri resident, possess a valid Social Security number, and be a United States citizen or a qualified alien with proper documentation to be eligible for MO HealthNet benefits;

(2) Requires any individual claiming eligibility as a pregnant woman to verify the pregnancy;

(3) Requires the Family Support Division within the Department of Social Services to conduct an annual review of the eligibility for all MO HealthNet participants beginning January 1, 2014;

(4) Requires individuals enrolling in MO HealthNet to provide all required information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility or for other administrative purposes connected to the program;

(5) Requires the department to determine eligibility by calculating the individual's income and family size for the remainder of the current calendar year; calculating the household income including all actually available cash support provided by a person claiming the applying individual as a tax dependent; including in a pregnant woman's household size the number of children she is expected to deliver; ensuring that a Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)-eligible child is uninsured, is without access to affordable insurance, and will pay the required premium; and confirming that an individual claiming eligibility as an uninsured woman does not have insurance;

(6) Prohibits the MO HealthNet Program from providing coverage to a parent or other caretaker relative living with a dependent child who is classified as medically frail unless the child is receiving benefits under MO HealthNet or CHIP;

(7) Requires, beginning January 1, 2014, the following individuals to be eligible for MO HealthNet coverage: individuals covered by MO HealthNet for families, individuals covered by transitional MO HealthNet, individuals covered by extended MO HealthNet for families on child support closings, pregnant women and children less than one year of age whose family income does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level, children less than six years of age whose family income does not exceed 135% of the federal poverty

level, children less than 19 years of age whose family income does not exceed 100% of the federal poverty level, CHIP-eligible children; and uninsured women;

(8) Specifies the income eligibility standards for certain individuals;

(9) Extends, beginning January 1, 2014, the eligibility for the alternative package of MO HealthNet benefits to individuals who are between the ages of 19 and 65, are not pregnant, are not entitled to or enrolled in Medicare Part A or Part B benefits, are not eligible for or enrolled in mandatory coverage under MO HealthNet, and have a household income that is at or below 100% of the federal poverty level;

(10) Limits an individual qualified for the alternative package of MO HealthNet benefits to a package of alternative minimum benefits unless he or she is classified as medically frail. The medically frail must receive all of the coverage they are eligible to receive;

(11) Requires the Department of Social Services to work with the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Health and Senior Services to create a screening process for determining whether an individual is medically frail; and

(12) Requires premium subsidies and other support to be provided to an individual who is eligible for alternative minimum benefits for his or her enrollment into cost effective employer-provided health plans.