

HCS SB 127 -- MO HEALTHNET BENEFITS

SPONSOR: Sater (Lichtenegger)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding MO HealthNet benefits.

The substitute adds drugs and medicines for a MO HealthNet recipient that is prescribed by an advanced practice registered nurse and the services of an advanced practice registered nurse with a collaborative practice agreement to the list of services that must be paid for by the MO HealthNet Program.

The substitute authorizes the MO HealthNet Division within the Department of Social Services to implement a statewide dental delivery system to ensure recipient participation and access to dental services under MO HealthNet to providers in all areas of the state. The division may seek a third party experienced in the administration of dental benefits to administer the program under the division's supervision.

PROponents: Supporters say that access to dental care for MO HealthNet recipients is very limited and problematic. The bill streamlines the process of providing dental services to help increase MO HealthNet recipients' access to dental care. Currently, the department is only allowed to provide dental services through a fee-for-service or managed care model. The bill allows the department to contract with third parties to provide dental services to participants and expands dental coverage to the entire state.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Sater; and Missouri Dental Association.

OPponents: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.