

HB 1483 -- MISSOURI HEALTHNET REIMBURSEMENT

SPONSOR: Molendorp

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Health Insurance by a vote of 12 to 0.

Beginning July 1, 2014, and subject to appropriations, this bill requires the MO HealthNet Division within the Department of Social Services to reimburse eligible providers of behavioral, social, and psychophysiological services, including psychologists. The services provided should include the prevention, treatment, or management of physical health problems, and providers must be reimbursed utilizing the behavior assessment and intervention reimbursement codes under the Current Procedural Terminology coding system.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that billing codes trigger payment for services and there is currently a gap in MO HealthNet coverage where psychological and counseling services for medical conditions are not covered. Counseling for medical conditions makes technical medicine effective because most chronic illnesses have a significant lifestyle component that must also be addressed. Supporters say the listed billing codes are currently reimbursed by Medicare, Veterans Affairs, and private insurance plans. Adding the billing codes will allow for integrated medicine and integrated care and will allow treatment to begin as soon as it is needed rather than waiting for behavioral issues to become strictly mental health issues before treatment begins.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Molendorp; John Howell; Paul Korte, Ph.D.; Mary Weatherford, Ph.D.; and Dr. David Dahlbeck.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.