

HB 1686 -- MO HEALTHNET PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Butler

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

(1) 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 the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP);

(2) Extends, beginning January 1, 2015, 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 138% of the federal poverty level;

(3) 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;

(4) 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

(5) 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.