

HB 153 -- MO HEALTHNET PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Gardner

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

(1) Extends, beginning January 1, 2016, the eligibility for the alternative package of MO HealthNet benefits to individuals who are 19 years of age or older and under 65 years of age, are not pregnant, are not entitled to or enrolled for Medicare benefits under Part A or Part B of the federal Social Security Act, are not eligible for and enrolled for mandatory coverage under the MO HealthNet Program, and have a household income that is at or below 133% of the federal poverty level for the applicable family size for the applicable year as converted to the modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) equivalent net income standard;

(2) Allows an individual eligible for MO HealthNet benefits under the new eligibility group to only receive a package of alternative minimum benefits unless he or she is classified as medically frail. Individuals who meet the definition of "medically frail" must receive all of the coverage they are eligible to receive under MO HealthNet;

(3) 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;

(4) Requires the Department of Social Services to discontinue eligibility for persons who are eligible under these provisions if specified actions occur, and

(5) Requires the MO HealthNet Oversight Committee to conduct research and investigate any potential health-related savings and revenues associated with expanding eligibility to persons under these provisions and determine the feasibility of specified options.