

HCS HB 1235 -- HEALTH CARE PAYMENTS

SPONSOR: Stephens (128)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 14 to 0.

Beginning July 1, 2019, this bill requires any MO HealthNet managed care organization to reimburse a nonparticipating hospital no less than 100% of the MO HealthNet fee-for-service fee schedule rate effective on the date the service was provided by the hospital.

Currently, utilizing the unanticipated out-of-network process is optional. This bill requires health care professionals to utilize the process outlined in statute for claims for charges for unanticipated out-of-network care.

This bill is similar to is SB 103 (2019).

This bill has an emergency clause.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will set a benchmark reimbursement rate for hospitals. The current policy penalizes hospitals by putting the rate at 90% when a disagreement occurs, which puts hospitals at a disadvantage during negotiations.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Stephens; Wayne Lee; Missouri State Medical Association; Missouri Nurses Association; Saint Luke's Health System; SSM Health; Missouri Hospital Association; BJC Healthcare; Cox Health; Missouri College of Emergency Physicians; and Missouri Hospital Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the current policy levels the negotiation playing field because the requirements on Managed Care Organizations means they have lower negotiation power in some situations. This bill would give all the negotiating power to hospitals.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri Health Plan Association.