

HB 423 -- HEALTH CARE COMPACT

SPONSOR: Burlison

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 8 to 1.

This bill authorizes Missouri to adopt the provisions of the Health Care Compact which pledges to improve health care policy within the states by securing consent from the United States Congress to return the authority to regulate health care to the states that have adopted the compact by specifying that the state legislatures have the primary responsibility to regulate health care in their respective states. Each member state must have the right to use appropriated federal funds to exercise the authority of a member state.

The compact must become effective upon adoption by the member states or the consent of Congress, whichever occurs later. Congressional consent of the compact will authorize member states to enact state laws that supercede any federal regulations within the state in the area of health care; otherwise, federal law will remain in effect if a member state does not invoke its authority. The compact can be amended by agreement among the member states and the adoption of the agreement into the laws of the member states. Any member state may withdraw from the compact by adopting a law to that effect. The compact must be dissolved upon the withdrawal of all but one of the member states. The Interstate Advisory Health Care Commission is established to study the issues of health care regulation of particular concern to the member states and may make nonbinding recommendations to them.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill supports the governance of health care through state sovereignty. By joining the compact, Missouri will be able to receive federal funds and use it to the best benefit of Missourians.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Burlison; Susanna Dokupil; John Putnam; Phillip Todd; James Coyne; and Ron Calzone, Missouri First.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.