

SS HCS HB 1576 -- STATE HEALTH INSURANCE FOR FOSTER PARENTS

This bill requires the Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan to allow any state-licensed foster parent to purchase the same state health insurance as state employees for himself or herself and his or her dependents at the actuarially determined rate of total premium for healthcare coverage. In order to qualify, the foster parent must not have access to other health insurance coverage through an employer or spouse's employer. The foster parent must provide documentation of eligibility for state health insurance prior to the purchase of any state health insurance under the plan.

Any specialized foster parent, as defined in Section 210.543, RSMo, providing temporary foster care for children with a documented history of presenting behaviors or diagnoses that render the child unable to effectively function outside of a highly structured setting, with the exception of a child whom he or she anticipates to adopt or who is related to the foster parent, is eligible to purchase the same state health insurance plan as state employees for himself or herself and his or her dependents through the plan at the actuarially determined rate of total premium for healthcare coverage. The Department of Social Services must provide the plan with the appropriate documentation of initial and ongoing eligibility of foster parents who qualify for the purchase of state health insurance.