

HCS HB 344 -- MISSOURI HEALTHNET REIMBURSEMENT FOR BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION

SPONSOR: Molendorp

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Health Insurance by a vote of 11 to 0.

Beginning July 1, 2013, and subject to appropriations, this substitute requires the MO HealthNet Division within the Department of Social Services to reimburse eligible providers of behavioral, social, and psychophysiological services, including psychologists. The services provided should include the prevention, treatment, or management of physical health problems, and providers must be reimbursed utilizing the behavior assessment and intervention reimbursement codes under the Current Procedural Terminology coding system.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill allows medical professionals to bring behavior health treatment to patients and allows for the proper treatment of diagnoses that have a psychological component as well as a medical component. Patient compliance is one of the biggest hurdles in treatment and often times a patient's behavior does not support his or her health care needs. Behavior health services are currently not billable under the Missouri HealthNet Program.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Molendorp; and John Howell, Missouri Psychological Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.