

HB 1065 -- SHOW-ME HEALTHY BABIES PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Grisamore

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities by a vote of 10 to 2.

This bill establishes the Show-Me Healthy Babies Program within the Department of Social Services as a separate children's health insurance program for any low-income unborn child.

For an unborn child to be eligible for enrollment in the program, the mother of the child must not be eligible for coverage under Title XIX of the federal Social Security Act or the Medicaid Program as administered by the state and must not have access to affordable employer-subsidized health care insurance or other affordable health care coverage that includes coverage for the unborn child. The unborn child must be in a family with income eligibility of no more than 300% of the federal poverty level or the equivalent modified adjusted gross income unless the income eligibility is set lower by the General Assembly through appropriations. When calculating family size as it relates to income eligibility, the family must include in addition to other family members, the unborn child, or in the case of a mother with a multiple pregnancy, all unborn children.

Coverage for an unborn child enrolled in the program must include all prenatal care and pregnancy-related services that benefit the health of the unborn child and promote healthy labor, delivery, and birth. Coverage does not need to include services that are solely for the benefit of the pregnant mother, are unrelated to maintaining or promoting a healthy pregnancy, and provide no benefit to the unborn child.

The bill specifies that there must not be a waiting period before an unborn child may be enrolled in the program. Coverage must include the period from conception to birth and the department must develop a presumptive eligibility procedure for enrolling an unborn child.

Coverage for the child must continue for up to one year after birth unless otherwise prohibited by law or limited by the General Assembly through appropriations. Coverage for the mother is limited to pregnancy-related and postpartum care beginning on the day the pregnancy ends and extends through the last day of the month that includes the sixtieth day after the pregnancy ends unless otherwise prohibited by law or limited by the General Assembly through appropriations.

The bill specifies how the department may provide coverage for an unborn child enrolled in the program. The department must provide information about the program to maternity homes as defined in Section 135.600, RSMo, pregnancy resource centers as defined in Section 135.630, and other similar agencies and programs in the state that assist unborn children and their mothers. The department must consider allowing these agencies and programs to assist in enrolling unborn children in the program and in making determinations about presumptive eligibility and verification of the pregnancy.

Within 60 days after the effective date of these provisions, the department must submit a state plan amendment or seek any necessary waivers from the federal Department of Health and Human Services requesting approval for the program.

At least annually, the Department of Social Services must prepare and submit a report to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tem of the Senate analyzing and projecting the cost savings and benefits, if any, to the state, counties, local communities, school districts, law enforcement agencies, correctional centers, health care providers, employers, other public and private entities and persons by enrolling unborn children in the program. The bill specifies the information that must be included in this analysis.

The program is not to be deemed an entitlement program, but instead is subject to a federal allotment or other federal appropriations and matching state appropriations.

The state is not obligated to continue the program if the allotment or payments from the federal government end or are not sufficient for the program to operate or if the General Assembly does not appropriate funds for the program.

These provisions must not be construed as expanding MO HealthNet or fulfilling a mandate imposed by the federal government on the state.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill contains all of the model language for the Show Me Healthy Babies program and would help children access health care.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Grisamore; Campaign Life Missouri; Catholic Charities of St. Louis; Missouri Right to Life; and Missouri Catholic Conference.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.