

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 2472

## 98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE FRANKLIN.

6202H.021

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To repeal sections 208.952 and 208.985, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the joint committee on public assistance.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Sections 208.952 and 208.985, RSMo, are repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 208.952, to read as follows:

208.952. 1. There is hereby established [the] **a permanent "Joint Committee on [MO HealthNet] Public Assistance"**. The committee shall have [as its purpose the study of] the **following purposes:**

(1) **Studying, monitoring, and reviewing the efficacy of the public assistance programs within the state;**

(2) **Determining the level of resources needed [to continue and improve the MO HealthNet program over time] for the public assistance programs within the state; and**

(3) **Developing recommendations to the general assembly on reducing dependency on the public assistance programs within the state and promoting self-sufficiency among public assistance recipients as may be appropriate.**

**The committee shall receive and obtain information from the departments of social services, mental health, health and senior services, and elementary and secondary education, and any other department as applicable, regarding the public assistance programs within the state including, but not limited to, MO HealthNet, supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP), and temporary assistance for needy families (TANF).**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 **Such information shall include projected enrollment growth, budgetary matters, and any**  
18 **other information deemed to be relevant to the committee's purpose.**

19 **2.** The committee shall consist of [ten] **twelve** members:

20 (1) The chair and the ranking minority member of the house committee on the budget;

21 (2) The chair and the ranking minority member of the senate committee on  
22 appropriations [committee];

23 (3) The chair and the ranking minority member of the house committee on  
24 appropriations [for health, mental health, and social services] **designated to consider public**  
25 **assistance legislation and matters;**

26 (4) The chair and the ranking minority member of the **standing** senate committee [on  
27 health and mental health] **designated to consider public assistance legislation and matters;**

28 (5) **The chair and the ranking minority member of the standing house committee**  
29 **designated to consider public assistance legislation and matters;**

30 (6) A representative chosen by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

31 [(6)] (7) A senator chosen by the president pro [tem] **tempore** of the senate.  
32

33 No more than [three] **four** members from each house shall be of the same political party.

34 [2.] **3.** A chair of the committee shall be selected by the members of the committee.

35 [3.] **4.** The committee shall meet [as necessary] **at least twice a year. A portion of the**  
36 **meeting shall be set aside for the purpose of receiving public testimony. The committee**  
37 **shall seek recommendations from social, economic, and public assistance experts on ways**  
38 **to improve the effectiveness of public assistance programs, to improve program efficiency**  
39 **and reduce costs, and to promote self-sufficiency among public assistance recipients as may**  
40 **be appropriate.**

41 [4. Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing the committee to hire  
42 employees or enter into any employment contracts.

43 5. The committee shall receive and study the five-year rolling MO HealthNet budget  
44 forecast issued annually by the legislative budget office.

45 6.] **5.** **The committee is authorized to hire staff and enter into employment**  
46 **contracts including, but not limited to, an executive director to conduct special reviews or**  
47 **investigations of the public assistance programs within the state in order to assist the**  
48 **committee with its duties. Staff appointments shall be approved by the president pro**  
49 **tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives. The compensation**  
50 **of committee staff and the expenses of the committee shall be paid from the joint**  
51 **contingent fund or jointly from the senate and house contingent funds until an**  
52 **appropriation is made therefor.**

53           **6.** The committee shall **annually conduct a rolling five-year forecast of the public**  
54 **assistance programs within the state and** make recommendations in a report to the general  
55 assembly by January first each year, beginning in [2008] **2018**, on anticipated growth [in the MO  
56 HealthNet program] **of the public assistance programs within the state**, needed improvements,  
57 anticipated needed appropriations, and suggested strategies on ways to structure the state budget  
58 in order to satisfy the future needs of [the program] **such programs.**

                  [208.985. 1. Pursuant to section 33.803, by January 1, 2008, and each  
2           January first thereafter, the legislative budget office shall annually conduct a  
3           rolling five-year MO HealthNet forecast. The forecast shall be issued to the  
4           general assembly, the governor, the joint committee on MO HealthNet, and the  
5           oversight committee established in section 208.955. The forecast shall include,  
6           but not be limited to, the following, with additional items as determined by the  
7           legislative budget office:

- 8                   (1) The projected budget of the entire MO HealthNet program;
- 9                   (2) The projected budgets of selected programs within MO HealthNet;
- 10                  (3) Projected MO HealthNet enrollment growth, categorized by  
11                  population and geographic area;
- 12                  (4) Projected required reimbursement rates for MO HealthNet providers;
- 13                  and
- 14                  (5) Projected financial need going forward.

15           2. In preparing the forecast required in subsection 1 of this section, where  
16           the MO HealthNet program overlaps more than one department or agency, the  
17           legislative budget office may provide for review and investigation of the program  
18           or service level on an interagency or interdepartmental basis in an effort to review  
19           all aspects of the program.]

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