

HB 2472 -- JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

SPONSOR: Franklin

This bill modifies the Joint Committee on MO HealthNet to create a permanent Joint Committee on Public Assistance. The committee must have as its purpose the study of the efficacy of public assistance programs within the state, determine the resources needed to continue and improve the programs, and develop recommendations on how to reduce dependency and promote public assistance recipient self-sufficiency as may be appropriate. The committee must receive and obtain information from the departments of Social Services, Mental Health, Health and Senior Services, Elementary and Secondary Education, and any other department as applicable, regarding projected enrollment growth, budgetary matters, and any other information deemed relevant to the committee's purpose.

The committee must meet at least twice a year. A portion of the meeting must be set aside for public testimony. The committee is authorized to hire staff and enter into employment contracts, including an executive director, to conduct special reviews or investigations of the state's public assistance programs. The committee must also conduct an annual rolling five-year forecast of the state's public assistance programs and make recommendations to the General Assembly.

The bill also repeals a section of law relating to a rolling five-year MO HealthNet forecast conducted by the Legislative Budget Office.

This bill is similar to SB 854 and SB 688 (2016).