

HCS HB 1576 -- STATE INSURANCE FOR FOSTER PARENTS

SPONSOR: Largent

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 13 to 0.

This substitute allows any state-licensed foster parent to purchase health insurance for himself or herself and his or her dependents from the Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan at the total premium rate established for state employees at his or her own expense. Any foster parent 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 is eligible to purchase the state health insurance plan. The Department of Social Services will provide an eligible foster parent with the appropriate documentation that qualifies him or her to purchase the state health insurance plan. A foster parent who is seeking to adopt a foster child or is related to the foster child will not be eligible to purchase the state health insurance plan.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill allows foster parents to purchase health insurance at the premium rate for state employees. This would be a great benefit for foster children and foster parents and ensure that these children are adequately insured.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Largent.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.