

HB 589 with HCA 1 -- MISSOURI MEDICAID AUDIT

SPONSOR: Hough

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Government Oversight and Accountability by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill specifies that if Missouri Medicaid audit and compliance changes any interpretation or application of the requirements for reimbursement for MO HealthNet services from the interpretation or application that has been applied previously by the state in any audit of a MO HealthNet provider, Missouri Medicaid audit and compliance must notify all affected MO HealthNet providers before the change takes affect. Failure of the Missouri Medicaid audit and compliance to notify a provider of the change entitles the provider to continue to receive and retain reimbursement until notification is provided and waives any liability of the provider for recoupment or other loss of any payments previously made prior to the date of the notice. The notification required must be delivered by the United States Postal Service or electronic mail to each facility.

HCA #1 - Makes technical changes; specifies that notice must be given five business days before the changes take effect; requires providers to provide the Missouri Medicaid Audit and Compliance Unit with a valid email address and agree to receive communication electronically; and specifies that the provisions do not abrogate or limit the department's statutory requirement to establish rules under Chapter 536, RSMo

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill simply precludes changes from being made without notification to providers. The Missouri Medicaid Audit and Compliance unit is a new entity established by executive order. Providers discovered during the audits being conducted by the Missouri Medicaid Audit and Compliance unit that new standards were being applied, although no new standards or laws had been passed to spur the changes in standards. This bill gives the providers an opportunity to respond to changes before they are implemented. It wasn't that the new standards were applied inconsistently from provider to provider, all providers were experiencing the same problems.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hough; Jeff Howell, Missouri State Medical Association; Missouri Dental Association; Missouri Pharmacists Association; Kathy McCrary, Joy Assisted Living; Keith Sappington, Mo Assisted Living Association; and BJC Healthcare.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.