

HB 989 -- MO HEALTHNET PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Rizzo

This bill changes the laws regarding the MO HealthNet Program. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Prohibits the MO HealthNet program from providing coverage under the provisions of the bill to a parent or other caretaker relative living with a dependent child unless the child is receiving benefits under MO HealthNet, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or otherwise is enrolled in minimum essential health care coverage;
- (2) Extends, beginning January 1, 2016, the eligibility for the alternative package of MO HealthNet benefits to individuals who are 19 years of age or older and under 65 years of age, are not pregnant, are not entitled to or enrolled for Medicare benefits under Part A or Part B of the federal Social Security Act, are not eligible for and enrolled for mandatory coverage under the MO HealthNet Program, and have a household income that is at or below 133% of the federal poverty level for the applicable family size for the applicable year as converted to the modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) equivalent net income standard;
- (3) Allows an individual eligible for MO HealthNet benefits under the new eligibility group to only receive a package of alternative minimum benefits unless he or she is classified as medically frail. Individuals who meet the definition of "medically frail" must receive all of the coverage they are eligible to receive under MO HealthNet;
- (4) Requires the Department of Social Services to work with the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Health and Senior Services to create a screening process for determining whether an individual is medically frail; and
- (5) Requires the Department of Social Services to provide premium subsidy and other cost supports for individuals eligible for medical assistance under these provisions to enroll in employer-provided health plans based on cost effective principles.

The bill contains a referendum clause.