

House _____ Amendment NO. _____

Offered By

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 607, Page 2, Section 208.800, Line 3, by
2 inserting after all of said section and line the following:

3
4 "208.952. 1. There is hereby established [the] a permanent "Joint Committee on [MO
5 HealthNet] Public Assistance". The committee shall have [as its purpose the study of] the following
6 purposes:

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

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

11 (3) Developing recommendations to the general assembly on the public assistance programs
12 within the state and promoting independence from safety-net programs among recipients as may be
13 appropriate.

14
15 The committee shall receive and obtain information from the departments of social services, mental
16 health, health and senior services, and elementary and secondary education, and any other
17 department as applicable, regarding the public assistance programs within the state including, but
18 not limited to, MO HealthNet, supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP), and temporary
19 assistance for needy families (TANF). Such information shall include projected enrollment growth,
20 budgetary matters, trends in childhood poverty and hunger, and any other information deemed to be
21 relevant to the committee's purpose.

22 2. The directors of the departments of social services, mental health, and health and senior
23 services shall each submit an annual written report to the committee providing data and statistical
24 information regarding the caseloads of the department's employees involved in the administration of
25 public assistance programs.

26 3. The committee shall consist of [ten] twelve members:

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

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

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

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

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

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1 (6) A representative chosen by the speaker of the house of representatives; and
 2 [(6)] (7) A senator chosen by the president pro [tem] tempore of the senate.

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

5 [2.] 4. A chair of the committee shall be selected by the members of the committee.

6 [3.] 5. The committee shall meet [as necessary] at least twice a year. A portion of the
 7 meeting shall be set aside for the purpose of receiving public testimony. The committee shall seek
 8 recommendations from social, economic, and public assistance experts on ways to improve the
 9 effectiveness of public assistance programs, to improve program efficiency and reduce costs, and to
 10 promote self-sufficiency among public assistance recipients as may be appropriate.

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

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

15 6. The committee is authorized to hire staff and enter into employment contracts including,
 16 but not limited to, an executive director to conduct special reviews or investigations of the public
 17 assistance programs within the state in order to assist the committee with its duties. Staff
 18 appointments shall be approved by the president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the
 19 house of representatives. The compensation of committee staff and the expenses of the committee
 20 shall be paid from the joint contingent fund or jointly from the senate and house contingent funds
 21 until an appropriation is made therefor.

22 7. The committee shall annually conduct a rolling five-year forecast of the public assistance
 23 programs within the state and make recommendations in a report to the general assembly by January
 24 first each year, beginning in [2008] 2018, on anticipated growth [in the MO HealthNet program] of
 25 the public assistance programs within the state, needed improvements, anticipated needed
 26 appropriations, and suggested strategies on ways to structure the state budget in order to satisfy the
 27 future needs of [the program] such programs.

28 [208.985. 1. Pursuant to section 33.803, by January 1, 2008, and each January first
 29 thereafter, the legislative budget office shall annually conduct a rolling five-year MO
 30 HealthNet forecast. The forecast shall be issued to the general assembly, the
 31 governor, the joint committee on MO HealthNet, and the oversight committee
 32 established in section 208.955. The forecast shall include, but not be limited to, the
 33 following, with additional items as determined by the legislative budget office:

- 34 (1) The projected budget of the entire MO HealthNet program;
 35 (2) The projected budgets of selected programs within MO HealthNet;
 36 (3) Projected MO HealthNet enrollment growth, categorized by population and
 37 geographic area;
 38 (4) Projected required reimbursement rates for MO HealthNet providers; and
 39 (5) Projected financial need going forward.

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

44
 45 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references
 46 accordingly.