

House _____ Amendment NO. _____

Offered By

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for Senate Substitute for Senate Bill No. 608, Page 4,
2 Section 208.800, Line 3, by 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 on promoting independence from safety net programs among participants as
13 may be 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, the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP), and
19 temporary assistance for needy families (TANF). Such information shall include projected
20 enrollment growth, budgetary matters, trends in childhood poverty and hunger, and any other
21 information deemed to be relevant to the committee's purpose.

22 2. The directors of the department 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 members:

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

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

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

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

36 (5) A representative chosen by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

Standing Action Taken _____ Date _____

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1 (6) A senator chosen by the president pro [tem] tempore of the senate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 [208.985. 1. Pursuant to section 33.803, by January 1, 2008, and each
28 January first thereafter, the legislative budget office shall annually conduct a rolling
29 five-year MO HealthNet forecast. The forecast shall be issued to the general
30 assembly, the governor, the joint committee on MO HealthNet, and the oversight
31 committee established in section 208.955. The forecast shall include, but not be
32 limited to, the following, with additional items as determined by the legislative
33 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
37 and 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
41 MO HealthNet program overlaps more than one department or agency, the legislative
42 budget office may provide for review and investigation of the program or service
43 level on an interagency or interdepartmental basis in an effort to review all aspects of
44 the program.]"; and

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

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