

HCS HB 780 -- HEALTH INSURANCE

SPONSOR: Hill

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Insurance Policy by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill creates the "State Innovation Waiver Task Force," for the purpose of developing a health care reform plan that meets requirements for obtaining a state innovation waiver from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

To be eligible, a state must demonstrate that its proposed health insurance reforms are as comprehensive and affordable as the federal requirements for insurance sold in its state budget neutral for the federal government. States receiving grant waivers may receive federal assistance to operate their reform programs in an amount that is equivalent to the amount the federal government would have paid for individuals enrolled in the state.

The task force members are outlined in the bill.

This bill contains an emergency clause.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that many states are looking to get a waiver from the Affordable Care Act because in many counties in the state there is only one willing provider and that is not a choice. We need to establish this task force to find a sustainable health care system that covers more people for less costs. We need to have different options available.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hill; Missouri Hospital Association; Coni Tines, Blue Cross Blue Shield, KC; United Healthcare Services, Inc.; Missouri Insurance Coalition, America's Health Insurance; and David Smith, Anthem, Incorporated.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say any plan that you work on needs to cover as many people as the ACA if you get a waiver.

Testifying on the bill was Sidney Watson.