

HB 492 -- HEALTH CARRIER REIMBURSEMENTS

SPONSOR: Henderson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 15 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill prohibits health carriers from only allowing health care providers to be reimbursed using methods requiring the health care provider to pay a fee or reduced reimbursement rate in order to receive such reimbursement.

If a health carrier changes reimbursement methods they must notify the health care provider if any fee, discount or other remuneration required to redeem the reimbursement amount. For new or renewed contracts after August 28, 2019, health carriers must offer an alternative reimbursement method which has no such fees.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will prevent extra charges that are not related to care getting passed on to the consumer because it would allow a health carrier to not have to pay a fee to be reimbursed.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Henderson; Edna Livingston, Missouri Dental Association; Erick Jansson, American Dental Association; Missouri Hospital Association; SSM Healthcare; Missouri State Medical Association; Missouri Pharmacy Association; BJC Healthcare Systems, Coxhealth, Missouri Association of Rural Health Clinics; Missouri Ambulatory Surgery Center Association, Signature Medical Group; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City, and the Missouri Insurance Coalition.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.