

HB 2128 -- Health Policy and Oversight

Sponsor: Baker (25)

This bill establishes provisions regarding health policy and oversight.

MISSOURI HEALTH POLICY AUTHORITY

Beginning September 1, 2008, the bill establishes the Missouri Health Policy Authority within the Department of Health and Senior Services consisting of 11 voting members who are members of the general public and have knowledge in various areas of health care and patient advocacy. The authority must meet at least monthly through June 30, 2010, and at least quarterly thereafter.

The authority will work to improve the health of Missourians by increasing the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of health services and public health programs. The authority is required to develop a statewide health policy agenda. Beginning in 2010, the authority must report annually to the General Assembly its recommendations for implementation of the health policy agenda, health care cost data, and health care indicator data.

By January 1, 2009, the authority must submit a plan for funding and legislation needed to transfer specific programs and activities to the authority. Beginning July 1, 2009, the authority will:

(1) Assume operational and purchasing responsibility for the regular medical portion of the MO HealthNet Program, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, the working healthy portion of the Ticket to Work Program, the MO HealthNet management information system, any drug utilization review program, and the Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan for state employees;

(2) Coordinate health care planning, administration, and purchasing and analysis of health data for the State of Missouri for medical assistance programs, drug utilization programs, and other health programs assigned to the authority by the Governor or by contract with another state agency; and

(3) Receive by transfer the powers, duties, and functions of the Department of Social Services regarding medical assistance and health insurance programs as specified in Chapter 208, RSMo.

At the beginning of the regular session of the General Assembly in 2010, the authority is required to submit recommendations and an implementation plan for the transfer of additional

Medicaid-funded Programs. At the beginning of the regular session of the General Assembly in 2011, the authority is required to submit recommendations and an implementation plan for the authority to assume health care purchasing responsibilities within additional state agencies. The bill requires the authority to promote the development of a statewide health information plan.

The authority may contract with state agencies and local government entities to perform services or administer certain functions, services, or programs. Contracts must be made in the name of the Missouri Health Policy Authority.

Beginning July 1, 2009, the authority will be authorized to establish general policies regarding the health programs that have been transferred to the authority. The authority can make grants of funds for the promotion of health programs in the state and is required to:

- (1) Advise the Governor and General Assembly on all health programs, policies, and plans for which it is responsible;
- (2) Establish an adequate system of financial records, make periodic reports to the Governor, and prepare reports required by federal agencies;
- (3) Prepare an annual budget as directed by the Governor;
- (4) Establish advisory groups as needed; and
- (5) Make public and post on its web site all documents created by the authority, except when the documents are required to remain confidential by state or federal law.

The authority will have the authority to restructure any and all boards, commissions, committees, task forces, and other similar entities within the department that are affected by the authority.

OFFICE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS WORKFORCE PLANNING

The bill establishes the Office of Health Professions Workforce Planning within the authority to address the shortage and uneven distribution of health care professionals in Missouri. The office will be funded by appropriations, gifts, grants, and bequests, and with contracts and grants from philanthropic foundations and federal government agencies.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Office of Inspector General is established within the authority to oversee, audit, investigate, and complete performance reviews of all state-purchased health insurance.

MISSOURI CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER

The bill establishes the Missouri Chief Health Officer within the department. The health officer's duties will include serving as chairperson of the State Board of Health; advising the department director on developing strategies to improve health indicators; creating a web site to promote healthy lifestyles for Missouri citizens; providing health information to schools, employers, and private and public institutions; and promoting public health information, health literacy, and disease prevention. The health officer is required to submit an annual report on the current overall health of Missouri citizens and any recommendations for improvements by January 31 to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and President Pro Tem of the Senate.