

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 854

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR BROWN.

Read 1st time January 6, 2016, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

5648S.011

AN ACT

To repeal sections 208.952 and 208.985, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the joint committee on public assistance.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 208.952 and 208.985, RSMo, are repealed and one new
2 section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 208.952, to read as follows:

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

4 **(1) Studying, monitoring, and reviewing the efficacy of the public**
5 **assistance programs within the state;**

6 **(2) Determining the level of resources needed [to continue and**
7 **improve the MO HealthNet program over time] for the public assistance**
8 **programs within the state; and**

9 **(3) Developing recommendations to the general assembly on**
10 **reducing dependency on the public assistance programs within the**
11 **state and promoting self-sufficiency among public assistance recipients**
12 **as may be appropriate.**

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

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

21 **information deemed to be relevant to the committee's purpose.**

22 **2.** The committee shall consist of ten members:

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

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

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

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

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

35 (6) A senator chosen by the president pro [tem] **tempore** of the senate.
36 No more than [three] **four** members from each house shall be of the same
37 political party.

38 [2.] **3.** A chair of the committee shall be selected by the members of the
39 committee.

40 [3.] **4.** The committee shall meet [as necessary] **at least twice a year.**
41 **A portion of the meeting shall be set aside for the purpose of receiving**
42 **public testimony. The committee shall seek from recommendations**
43 **from social, economic, and public assistance experts on ways to**
44 **improve the effectiveness of public assistance programs, to improve**
45 **program efficiency and reduce costs, and to promote self-sufficiency**
46 **among public assistance recipients as may be appropriate.**

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

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

51 [6.] **5.** **The committee is authorized to hire staff and enter into**
52 **employment contracts including, but not limited to, an executive**
53 **director to conduct special reviews or investigations of the public**
54 **assistance programs within the state in order to assist the committee**
55 **with its duties. Staff appointments shall be approved by the president**
56 **pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of**
57 **representatives. The compensation of committee staff and the expenses**
58 **of the committee shall be paid from the joint contingent fund or jointly**
59 **from the senate and house contingent funds until an appropriation is**

60 **made therefor.**

61 **6. The committee shall annually conduct a rolling five-year forecast**
62 **of the public assistance programs within the state and** make
63 recommendations in a report to the general assembly by January first each year,
64 beginning in [2008] **2018**, on anticipated growth [in the MO HealthNet program]
65 **of the public assistance programs within the state**, needed improvements,
66 anticipated needed appropriations, and suggested strategies on ways to structure
67 the state budget in order to satisfy the future needs of [the program] **such**
68 **programs.**

[208.985. 1. Pursuant to section 33.803, by January 1,
2 2008, and each January first thereafter, the legislative budget
3 office shall annually conduct a rolling five-year MO HealthNet
4 forecast. The forecast shall be issued to the general assembly, the
5 governor, the joint committee on MO HealthNet, and the oversight
6 committee established in section 208.955. The forecast shall
7 include, but not be limited to, the following, with additional items
8 as determined by the legislative budget office:

9 (1) The projected budget of the entire MO HealthNet
10 program;

11 (2) The projected budgets of selected programs within MO
12 HealthNet;

13 (3) Projected MO HealthNet enrollment growth, categorized
14 by population and geographic area;

15 (4) Projected required reimbursement rates for MO
16 HealthNet providers; and

17 (5) Projected financial need going forward.

18 2. In preparing the forecast required in subsection 1 of this
19 section, where the MO HealthNet program overlaps more than one
20 department or agency, the legislative budget office may provide for
21 review and investigation of the program or service level on an
22 interagency or interdepartmental basis in an effort to review all
23 aspects of the program.]

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