

SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

**SENATE BILL NOS. 688 & 854**

**98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

4557H.05C

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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**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.

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*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Section A. Sections 208.952 and 208.985, RSMo, are repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 208.952, to read as follows: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 Committee on [MO HealthNet] **Public Assistance**". The committee shall have [as its purpose the study of] the **following purposes:**

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

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

(3) **Developing recommendations to the general assembly on the public assistance programs within the state and on promoting independence from safety net programs among participants as may be appropriate.**

The committee shall receive and obtain information from the departments of social services, mental health, health and senior services, and elementary and secondary education, and any other department as applicable, regarding the public assistance programs within the state including, but not limited to, MO HealthNet, the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP), and temporary assistance for needy families (TANF).

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 **Such information shall include projected enrollment growth, budgetary matters, trends in**  
19 **childhood poverty and hunger, and any other information deemed to be relevant to the**  
20 **committee's purpose.**

21 **2. The directors of the department of social services, mental health, and health and**  
22 **senior services shall each submit an annual written report to the committee providing data**  
23 **and statistical information regarding the caseloads of the department's employees involved**  
24 **in the administration of public assistance programs.**

25 **3. The committee shall consist of ten members:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

40 [2.] **4.** A chair of the committee shall be selected by the members of the committee.

41 [3.] **5.** The committee shall meet [as necessary] **at least twice a year. A portion of the**  
42 **meeting shall be set aside for the purpose of receiving public testimony. The committee**  
43 **shall seek recommendations from social, economic, and public assistance experts on ways**  
44 **to improve the effectiveness of public assistance programs, to improve program efficiency**  
45 **and reduce costs, and to promote self-sufficiency among public assistance recipients as may**  
46 **be appropriate.**

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

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

51 **6. The committee is authorized to hire staff and enter into employment contracts**  
52 **including, but not limited to, an executive director to conduct special reviews or**  
53 **investigations of the public assistance programs within the state in order to assist the**

54 **committee with its duties. Staff appointments shall be approved by the president pro**  
55 **tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives. The compensation**  
56 **of committee staff and the expenses of the committee shall be paid from the joint**  
57 **contingent fund or jointly from the senate and house of representatives contingent funds**  
58 **until an appropriation is made therefor.**

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

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

- 9               (1) The projected budget of the entire MO HealthNet program;  
10              (2) The projected budgets of selected programs within MO  
11 HealthNet;  
12              (3) Projected MO HealthNet enrollment growth, categorized by  
13 population and geographic area;  
14              (4) Projected required reimbursement rates for MO HealthNet  
15 providers; and  
16              (5) Projected financial need going forward.

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

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