

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2215

Whereas, MO HealthNet, Missouri's Medicaid program, provides statewide medical assistance to low-income and vulnerable Missourians, including access to prescription drugs through MO HealthNet's Pharmacy Program; and

Whereas, prescription drugs, often a vital element in a patient's treatment plan and continued well-being, have grown increasingly expensive in recent years; and

Whereas, in 2016 alone, Americans will spend more than \$328 billion on prescription drug, \$110 billion of which will be paid by Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans' insurance; and

Whereas, in the MO HealthNet program, costs for specialty drugs and generic equivalent drugs have risen 59% in recent years, resulting in prescription drug costs of over \$1.8 billion; and

Whereas, in 2014, the cost of one drug provided to just 311 MO HealthNet participants was \$26 million. The cost of another drug, prescribed to about 15,000 MO HealthNet participants, totaled more than \$75 million; and

Whereas, the continued trend of increased prescription drug costs is unsustainable and represents a budgetary crisis for the MO HealthNet program, as well as increased hardship and uncertainty for the health and welfare of Missouri residents:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, hereby establish the Senate Interim Committee on MO HealthNet Pharmacy Benefits; and

Be It Further Resolved that such committee be composed of five members of the Senate, to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore, with three members being of the majority party and two members being of the minority party; and

Be It Further Resolved that such committee conduct in-depth studies and make appropriate recommendations concerning pharmacy benefits under the MO HealthNet program and potential cost savings strategies; and

Be It Further Resolved that such committee may present a final report, together with its recommendations for any legislative action it deems necessary for submission to the Missouri Senate by December 31, 2016, at which point the committee shall be dissolved; and

Be It Further Resolved that such committee may solicit any input and information necessary to fulfill its obligations from the appropriate state departments and agencies, including the Department of Social Services, as well as health care provider and patient advocacy organizations; and

Be It Further Resolved that the staffs of Senate Research and Senate Appropriations shall provide such legal, research, clerical, technical, and bill drafting services as the committee may require in the performance of its duties; and

Be It Further Resolved that the committee, its members, and any staff assigned to the committee shall receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in attending meetings of the committee.

Resolution

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