

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 197

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR BROWN.

Read 1st time January 7, 2015, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

0991S.011

## AN ACT

To repeal section 208.952, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the joint committee on MO HealthNet, with penalty provisions.

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

Section A. Section 208.952, RSMo, is repealed and one new section  
2 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". The committee shall have as its purpose the  
3 study, **monitoring, and review** of the **efficacy of the program as well as**  
4 **the** resources needed to continue and improve the MO HealthNet program over  
5 time. **The committee shall receive and obtain information from the**  
6 **departments of social services, mental health, health and senior**  
7 **services and elementary and secondary education, as applicable,**  
8 **regarding the projected budget of the entire MO HealthNet program**  
9 **including projected MO HealthNet enrollment growth, categorized by**  
10 **population and geographic area.** The committee shall consist of ten  
11 members:

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

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

16 (3) The chair and the ranking minority member of the house committee  
17 on appropriations for health, mental health, and social services;

18 (4) The chair and the ranking minority member of the **standing** senate  
19 committee [on health and mental health] **assigned to consider MO HealthNet**

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

20 **legislation and matters;**

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

23 (6) A senator chosen by the president pro tem of the senate.

24 No more than three members from each house shall be of the same political party.

25 2. A chair of the committee shall be selected by the members of the  
26 committee.

27 3. The committee shall meet [as necessary] **at least twice a year. In**  
28 **the event of three consecutive absences on the part of any member,**  
29 **such member may be removed from the committee. The committee**  
30 **shall solicit from state organizations representing health care**  
31 **professionals as to any recommendations they have to improve the**  
32 **quality of health care and its cost.**

33 4. [Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing the  
34 committee to hire employees or enter into any employment contracts] **The**  
35 **committee is authorized to hire employees or enter into employment**  
36 **contracts, and shall hire an investigator to conduct an audit, special**  
37 **review or investigation of the MO HealthNet program in order to assist**  
38 **the committee with its duties. Such investigator shall have free access**  
39 **to all divisions or offices within the departments of social services,**  
40 **health and senior services or mental health associated with the MO**  
41 **HealthNet program for the inspection of such books, accounts,**  
42 **contracts, data and papers as concern any of the investigator's**  
43 **duties. Any person who willfully makes or causes to be made to the**  
44 **investigator any false, misleading, or unfounded report for the purpose**  
45 **of interfering with the performance of the investigator's duties under**  
46 **this section shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. The compensation**  
47 **of such personnel and the expenses of the committee shall be paid from**  
48 **the joint contingent fund or jointly from the senate and house**  
49 **contingent funds until an appropriation is made therefor.**

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

52 6.] The committee shall **annually conduct a rolling five-year MO**  
53 **HealthNet forecast and** make recommendations in a report to the general  
54 assembly by January first each year, beginning in [2008] **2015**, on anticipated  
55 growth in the MO HealthNet program, needed improvements, anticipated needed

56 appropriations, and suggested strategies on ways to structure the state budget  
57 in order to satisfy the future needs of the program.

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Unofficial

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