

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 2105-01
Bill No.: SB 393
Subject: Corrections Department; Health Care; Medicaid/MO HealthNet; Prisons and Jails;
 Social Services Department
Type: Original
Date: March 12, 2019

Bill Summary: This proposal requires the MO HealthNet benefits of offenders in correctional facilities and jails to be suspended rather than terminated.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
General Revenue	(\$125,000)	\$0	\$0
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(\$125,000)	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
 This fiscal note contains 7 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Federal*	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

* Income and expenses of \$375,000 in FY 2020 net to \$0.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$100,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§§217.930 and 221.930 - Suspension of MO HealthNet benefits when incarcerated

Officials from the **Department of Social Services (DSS), MO HealthNet Division (MHD)** state SB 393 amends chapters 217 and 221, RSMo. This legislation requires MHD benefits of offenders in correctional facilities and jails to be suspended rather than terminated. These benefits shall be restored upon release until such time as the person is determined to no longer be eligible for the program.

Currently, when the Family Support Division (FSD) is notified that an individual has become incarcerated, MHD eligibility is closed and a new application is required upon release. The FSD has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with the Missouri Department of Corrections (DOC) to accept applications facilitated by the DOC when an individual is temporarily released to receive inpatient treatment for twenty-four hours or longer and when an inmate is expected to be permanently released. The DOC facilitates the application process on behalf of FSD for certain inmates within its custody who would appear to meet all factors for eligibility and coverage for MHD and assists in completing the necessary forms for application. FSD notifies the inmate in writing when the eligibility determination is complete of its decision regarding eligibility for MHD benefits.

In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018, the FSD closed MHD eligibility for 1,124 individuals due to incarceration and determined 461 individuals eligible for MHD benefits upon release. Of the 461 individuals determined eligible upon release, 155 were due to a temporary release of at least twenty-four hours for inpatient treatment and 306 were due to permanent release.

The proposed changes do not change MHD eligibility criteria established by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and participants will still need to meet all program eligibility requirements in order to keep active and/or suspended MHD benefits. To ensure the proper eligibility is determined, the FSD completes a review when there is a change in circumstances. An individual becoming incarcerated is a change in circumstance and when a participant with active or suspended coverage no longer meets the criteria for his or her current program benefits, FSD will explore an ex parte review to determine if the participant qualifies for coverage under another MHD program. If the individual does not qualify for coverage under another MHD program, their coverage will be closed. If the individual qualifies for coverage under another MHD program, they will be moved to the proper program. Therefore, "restored" coverage refers to the activation of coverage. However, this may not be at the same level as when the individual became incarcerated due to a change in circumstances. The FSD will continue to work with the DOC and will also work with county, city, and private jails to facilitate applications and eligibility reviews of incarcerated individuals to determine eligibility.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

The provisions of this bill do not affect any provisions relating to eligibility for any benefits from any program FSD administers. Therefore, there is no fiscal impact to FSD. Because FSD only determines eligibility for covered services, FSD defers to MHD regarding any services or medical expenses the participant may incur during periods of suspended coverage.

Currently, MHD has a process for persons that are incarcerated, but it involves starting and stopping their eligibility. In order to add a process to suspend eligibility, new system work would need to be created. This system work would include creating lock in segments for all incarcerated members. MHD does not pay for services while individuals are incarcerated. When they are admitted into the hospital or when they are released from prison, the lock in would have to be ended and a new lock in created for the date when/if they return to prison. Also, MHD would have to update the eligibility verification responses sent to providers to reflect the lock in to prison. This would require Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) system modifications costing up to \$500K to MHD. This would be calculated at a 75/25 split. Plus, additional staff time would be needed to manually add and close the lock-ins described above. This is estimated to be approximately 4 extra hours a month. These duties could be handled by a Management Analysis Specialist II (MAS II). At approximately \$22/hr for a MAS II, the total administrative costs associated with this legislation would be \$1,056 (\$22/hr*4 hrs*12 months) per year. It is assumed that MHD could absorb these costs with a MAS II already on staff.

Oversight contacted DSS staff regarding the \$500,000 in system modifications that would be needed. DSS assumes it would have to issue a request for proposal and get bids for the modifications that would be needed. Oversight contacted officials with the Office of Administration, Division of Purchasing and Materials Management (DPMM). DPMM officials indicated that a request for proposal would have to be submitted and bids received for these system modifications.

In addition, Oversight contacted DSS officials regarding any potential savings as a result of not having to process Medicaid applications for offenders being released from prison because benefits were suspended rather than terminated. Officials indicated the DSS would still need to go through a re-verification process to determine whether an individual would be eligible for benefits upon release. Any savings would be very small and there is no way to track the potential savings. Re-verification would still have to be performed manually for each offender being released from prison/jail to determine eligibility.

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Oversight assumes the MHD has sufficient staff and resources to absorb the additional duties required by this proposal to manually add and close the lock-ins described in their response. However, Oversight will reflect the costs for MMIS modifications provided by DSS for fiscal note purposes.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Officials from the **Department of Corrections (DOC)** defer to the DSS for any impact related to this proposal.

Oversight notes this legislation appears to require the DOC to notify DSS within 20 days of an offender on Medicaid coming to prison and to notify them within 45 days of the offender leaving prison. This will be less burdensome than the current process. This bill should provide qualifying offenders access to the medical and mental health care they need immediately upon release which may increase their probability of success in the community. This bill could immensely aid re-entry purposes and continuation of care.

The bill does not specify how the DOC determines if a person is receiving benefits under MO HealthNet. Therefore, it is unclear how this practice will be implemented.

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect no fiscal impact as provided by the DOC for fiscal note purposes.

Oversight notes that the **City of Kansas City**, the **Joplin Police Department**, the **Springfield Police Department**, the **St. Louis County Police Department**, and the **St. Louis County Department of Justice Services** have stated the proposal would not have a direct fiscal impact on their organizations. Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for these organizations.

Oversight only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other Sheriffs' Offices, Police Departments, and the City of Columbia were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. For a general listing of political subdivisions included in our database, please refer to www.legislativeoversight.mo.gov.

Oversight notes this proposal could have positive benefits to the state (including savings related to not having to process MoHealthnet applications once prisoners are released from prison and the potential reduced recidivism rates if newly-released inmates have access to health insurance immediately upon release) and to certain persons recently released from confinement in a prison or jail. Oversight assumes these benefits are indirect impacts and will not reflect them in the fiscal note.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2020 (10 Mo.)	FY 2021	FY 2022
GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
<u>Costs</u> - DSS (§§217.930 and 221.125)			
MMIS system modifications	<u>(\$125,000)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND	<u>(\$125,000)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
FEDERAL FUNDS			
<u>Income</u> - DSS (§§217.930 and 221.125)			
Program reimbursements for MMIS modifications	\$375,000	\$0	\$0
<u>Costs</u> - DSS (§§217.930 and 221.125)			
MMIS system modifications	<u>(\$375,000)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
 <u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>			
	FY 2020 (10 Mo.)	FY 2021	FY 2022
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Under this act, MO HealthNet benefits shall be suspended, rather than cancelled or terminated, for offenders entering into a correctional facility or jail if the Department of Social Services is notified of the person's entry into the correctional center or jail, the person was currently enrolled in MO HealthNet, and the person is otherwise eligible for MO HealthNet benefits but for his or her incarcerated status. Upon release from incarceration, the suspension shall end and the person

shall continue to be eligible for MO HealthNet benefits until such time as he or she is otherwise ineligible.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The Department of Corrections shall notify the Department of Social Services within 20 days of receiving information that a person receiving MO HealthNet benefits is or will become an offender in a correctional center or jail and within 45 days prior to the release of such person whose benefits have been suspended under this act. City, county, and private jails shall notify the Department of Social Services within 10 days of receiving information that person receiving MO HealthNet benefits is or will become an offender in the jail.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Corrections
Department of Social Services
City of Kansas City
Joplin Police Department
Springfield Police Department
St. Louis County Police Department
St. Louis County Department of Justice Services



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Director
March 12, 2019

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March 12, 2019