



March 26, 2009

Summary of House Budget Floor Amendments for Services for Vulnerable Populations

The House debated the budget bills, House Bills 1-13 on March 24 and 25th. House Budget Chair, Allen Icet insisted that any increasing amendment had to also have a companion decreasing amendment. He encouraged a few decreasing amendments for programs Rep. Icet views as “one time expenses”, with the promise that federal stimulus money would be used to fund these in a later bill. These include ethanol and biodiesel programs and the Caring for Missourians Initiative, training program for health care providers. Rep. Icet acknowledges that the Caring for Missourians Initiative is not a one-time expense, but said he would make it clear that Universities must pick up the cost of the program after this first year.

The introduced budget bills, as well as the House Committee Substitutes for the bills, made deep cuts in critical services. Previous papers outlining these cuts and the proposals of the Governor that were rejected are available on the Missouri Budget Project web site at www.mobudget.org.

The following is a summary of major amendments approved in the Departments of Health & Senior Services, Mental Health, and Social Services budgets. In some line items the appropriated General Revenue (GR) also draws down Federal Funds (FF).

***The following are *estimates* based on floor debate, and therefore preliminary numbers.

Line item	Amount of increase	Total cut in H Com. Substitute Bills
Senior meals	\$1.9 mil GR	\$2 million GR
Caseload growth for individuals with a Developmental Disability	\$5 mil GR	\$8.8 mil GR
Restore Presumptive eligibility	\$3 mil GR; \$8.9 mil FF	\$3.3 mil GR; \$9.8 mil FF
Chronic Care Improvement Program	\$3 mil GR; \$8.4 mil FF	This program was cut by the Governor
Subsidized child care (again) to maintain eligibility at 127% of FPL	\$2.2 mil GR	\$3.4 mil GR
Children’s Treatments Services	\$1.3 mil GR	\$1.5 mil

In-home providers’ payment rates were held at the FY09 level. No numbers were stated in the amendment.

Sheltered Workshops (HB2)	\$3.6 mil GR	\$3.6 mil GR
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Actual increases

SCHIP for children with cancer	\$81,000 GR; \$242,000 FF	Gov proposed \$22.7 mil GR; \$58.5 mil in FF to expand SCHIP
SCHIP for children with autism	\$67,000 GR; \$234,000 FF	Gov proposed \$22.7 mil GR; \$58.5 mil in FF to expand SCHIP
Teen crisis center	\$200,000 GR	\$200,000 GR

Significant amendments that were defeated include: Parents as Teachers; funding for the Governor's proposal to increase SCHIP enrollment; staffing for Marshall Rehabilitation Center; and the Governor's proposal to raise Medicaid eligibility for parents to 50% of the FPL.

What's next?

The budget bills will be referred to the Senate and the Senate Appropriations Committee will mark them up (make changes). The bills will likely be referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee early next week.

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