

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13
INTRODUCED BY D. HURWITZ

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CONDUCT A STUDY REGARDING THE MONTANA MEDICAID PROGRAM AND REPORT TO THE 59TH LEGISLATURE, OUTLINING OPTIONS THAT MAY BE UNDERTAKEN TO REDESIGN THE MONTANA MEDICAID PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, rising health care costs, expanded use of services, and increased enrollment have resulted in escalating costs for the Montana Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, expenditures in the Montana Medicaid program for the 2002-03 biennium are projected to be \$1,071,000,000, which includes \$267 million in general fund money and \$804 million in federal funds; and

WHEREAS, expenditures in the Montana Medicaid program constitute a significant portion of the state general fund; and

WHEREAS, federal regulations limit the discretion that states have in the administration of the Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, federal regulations mandate that certain health care services be provided and that certain groups be automatically eligible for Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, federal regulations do permit the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to grant waivers of certain federal requirements; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the Legislature as a whole be informed about the alternative approaches that may be undertaken and that the Legislature set the policy regarding the design of the Montana Medicaid program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Department of Public Health and Human Services direct sufficient staff services to undertake a study that will examine the various options available for the redesigning of the Montana Medicaid program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Public Health and Human Services report on a regular basis to the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee and to the Legislative

Finance Committee regarding the progress of the study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of Public Health and Human Services prepare a report to the 59th Legislature, as provided in section 5-11-210, MCA, detailing various options available for the redesign of the Montana Medicaid program, including the economic and social costs associated with various options.

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