



*Nothing is politically right
that is morally wrong.*

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

*Free and fair discussion
is the firmest friend of truth.*

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Senate Members Named to Bi-Partisan Medicaid Reform Panel
Commission to Begin Work in June

JEFFERSON CITY – Protecting the state’s most vulnerable people while revamping Missouri’s 40 year-old Medicaid system is the charge of five senators appointed to the Medicaid Reform Commission. Senate President Pro Tem Michael R. Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, named Republicans Senate Majority Floor Leader Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph; Sen. Jon Dolan, R-Lake St. Louis; Sen. Chuck Purgason, R-Caulfield; and Democrats Sen. Patrick Dougherty, D-St. Louis; and Sen. Yvonne Wilson, D-Kansas City; to serve on the commission. The five members make up half of the commission with five more members to be appointed from the House of Representatives.

Gibbons says the members of the commission have an historic task ahead of them in reforming a broken and out-dated system that fails to live up to its promises.

“Many of the changes we made to Medicaid earlier this year served only as a stop-gap to get us to a balanced budget without raising taxes,” Gibbons said. “This is our chance to lead by building a new Medicaid system for the 21st century.”

The Medicaid Reform Commission was created in Senate Bill 539 and is established to review the state’s current Medicaid system and make recommendations for a new, innovative healthcare delivery system for Missouri. The recommendations must be submitted to the Missouri General Assembly by Jan. 1.

“Their first task will be to determine who our most vulnerable citizens are and then how we can protect them with the right care at the right place, the right time and right cost,” Gibbons said. “Their final recommendations will help the General Assembly implement a system next year that is accountable and affordable to taxpayers and, at the same time, protects the people who most need these services.”

Although the commission was created in Senate Bill 539, a resolution also was passed allowing it to begin work before the Aug. 28 effective date of the original bill.

Once the five House members are appointed, the commission will release its schedule for public hearings which are expected to begin in June.

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