



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 396

Chairperson: Tim Gay
Committee: Health and Human Services
Date of Hearing: February 11, 2009

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 396 provides a mechanism for Nebraska Medicaid recipients to have access to better health care through a medical home; to provide incentive payments through Medicaid for primary care physicians who provide a medical home; to slow the growth of and reduce Medicaid expenditures.

A medical home is a location, usually a clinic or physicians office, where a patient can build a relationship with a primary care provider who will coordinate the health care of the patient and provide them with guidance and education on their particular health needs. This can include coordinating with other health care providers including specialists, suggesting medical tests, proactively providing reminders for preventive health needs and expanding the hours when patients can access health care.

The bill defines primary care physician as a physician licensed under the Uniform Credentialing Act and practicing in the area of general medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, or internal medicine.

The advisory council created in LB 396 is to be appointed by the Governor and representative of the fields of primary care, the public, the medical schools in Nebraska and a hospital. The Chairperson of the Legislative Health and Human Service Committee is to serve as an ex-officio member of the Council.

The duties of the Council include assisting the department in the creation of the pilot project and if warranted, a fully expanded program, plus a technical assistance program for medical homes; collecting and disseminating research and information regarding health care quality, evidence-based medicine, patient safety, variations in clinical practice patterns across the state; promoting the use of best practices for primary care; develop measures to evaluate and compare health care costs, health care quality and provider performance.

LB 396 requires the department to:

1. begin designing the pilot project and reimbursement rate changes by October 1, 2009
2. begin the pilot project by March 1, 2010

3. evaluate the pilot project by March 2011 and again by June 2012
4. begin designing the medical home program by March 1, 2011
5. provide an annual report beginning on October 1, 2011 on the work of the medical home advisory council and on related health care items
6. implement the medical home program and incentive payments to medical home providers by July 1, 2012, to the extent that funding is appropriated by the Legislature for this purpose, if the evaluation of the pilot project indicates it would be beneficial to the health of clients and provide a cost savings to the state

Principal Introducer:

_____ **Senator Mike Gloor**