

NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tentative Agenda

**BUDGET COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE**

Tuesday, February 12, 2002  
Roughrider Room, State Capitol  
Bismarck, North Dakota

- 9:00 a.m. Call to order  
Roll call  
Consideration of minutes of the October 23-24, 2001, meeting
- 9:05 a.m. Comments by Dr. Terry Dwelle, State Health Officer, State Department of Health, on his goals for the department and health policy in North Dakota
- MANDATED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE STUDY**
- 9:15 a.m. Presentations by representatives of the Insurance Department regarding:
- Health insurance companies that have left the state during the past 12 months and the reasons why each company ceased doing business in North Dakota
  - The status of the cost-benefit evaluation of existing health insurance mandates, pursuant to 2001 House Bill No. 1407
  - Recommendations regarding the committee's responsibility to recommend to the Legislative Council a private entity to be contracted with for conducting cost-benefit analyses of future legislative measures mandating health insurance coverage, pursuant to North Dakota Century Code Section 54-03-28
- 9:45 a.m. Presentation by a representative of Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota on:
- The costs of existing health insurance mandates and changes in costs to insurers and premium payers as a result of mandates
  - The utilization of mandated health insurance coverage and changes in utilization as a result of legislative mandates
  - The feasibility and desirability of repealing certain health insurance mandates
- 10:00 a.m. Comments by interested persons
- 10:15 a.m. Committee discussion and staff directives
- COORDINATION OF MEDICAID AND HEALTHY STEPS PROGRAMS STUDY**
- 10:45 a.m. Presentation by a representative of the Department of Human Services on the estimated cost of changing the Healthy Steps program eligibility requirement from the current level of 140 percent of the federal poverty level and distribution of the department's *At a Glance* publication
- 11:00 a.m. Presentation by a representative of the Department of Human Services on the status of Medicaid plan amendments to eliminate the asset test for Medicaid eligibility and the development of a combined application form for Medicaid and Healthy Steps
- 11:15 a.m. Presentation by a representative of Job Service North Dakota on unemployment trends and projections in North Dakota

- 11:25 a.m. Presentation by Mr. Tim Cox, President, Northland Health Care Alliance, on the receipt of a federal community access program (CAP) grant to support the coordination of services to underinsured and uninsured North Dakotans
- 11:35 a.m. Presentation by a representative of the North Dakota Medical Association on the amount of uncompensated care provided by North Dakota health care providers, including information on cases when uncompensated care is provided because a patient has no insurance and cases in which a patient has insurance but cannot pay the high deductible or coinsurance requirement included in the insurance policy
- 11:45 a.m. Presentation by the Legislative Council staff of memorandums on:
- Various health insurance coverage options available to North Dakota children and the eligibility requirements for each
  - The percentage of eligible children enrolled in the children's health insurance program in each state
  - Methods used by selected states to estimate the number of uninsured children
- 12:00 noon Luncheon recess
- 1:00 p.m. Presentation by a representative of the County Social Services Directors Association regarding the estimated cost of county administration of the Healthy Steps program
- 1:15 p.m. Presentation by a representative of the Department of Human Services on county administration of the Healthy Steps program
- 1:30 p.m. Comments by interested persons
- 1:40 p.m. Committee discussion and staff directives
- PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES STUDY**
- 1:50 p.m. Presentation by Mr. Bob Nakagawa, Director of Pharmacy, Fraser Health Authority, British Columbia, Canada, on pharmaceutical benefit management in Canada, including strategies that have been employed to ensure cost-effective utilization of public funds
- 3:15 p.m. Presentation by a representative of Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota on payments made for the 10 most common outpatient procedures
- 3:25 p.m. Presentation by a representative of the Department of Human Services on trends in Medicaid utilization rates for major drugs
- 3:35 p.m. Presentations by representatives of the Department of Human Services, the North Dakota Medical Association, and the North Dakota Pharmaceutical Association on the status of the Drug Utilization Review Board
- 3:55 p.m. Presentation by the Legislative Council staff of memorandums on:
- Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements by diagnostic-related group (DRG) in North Dakota and surrounding states
  - Demographic projections for the age 65 and older population in North Dakota
  - Methods used in selected other states to lower the cost of prescription drugs and programs in selected other states to provide assistance in the purchase of prescription drugs based on the income of the purchaser
- 4:15 p.m. Comments by interested persons
- 4:25 p.m. Committee discussion and staff directives

**COORDINATION OF BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

- 4:35 p.m. Presentation by a representative of Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota on the progress of the task force on augmentative communication devices
- 4:45 p.m. Comments by interested persons
- 4:50 p.m. Committee discussion and staff directives
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn

**Committee Members**

Senators Judy Lee (Chairman), Dennis Bercier, Gary A. Lee, Michael Polovitz, Ken Solberg, Russell T. Thane  
Representatives Rick Berg, Audrey B. Cleary, William R. Devlin, David Drovdal, Jim Kasper, George Keiser, Carol A. Niemeier, Kenton Onstad, Chet Pollert, Todd Porter, Clara Sue Price, Robin Weisz