

SSB 6090 - S AMD 423
By Senator Pridemore

PULLED 3/30/05

1 On page 46, after line 23, insert the following:

2 "(11) Within the funds appropriated in this section, the department
3 shall study an alternative rate-setting system under which it would
4 provide higher payment rates to homecare agencies that demonstrate (a)
5 contractually obligated labor costs; (b) a higher percentage of revenue
6 devoted to labor costs; (c) higher supervisor-to-client ratios; (d)
7 best practices financial audits; (e) accurate reporting of hours; (f)
8 ethical consumer marketing practices; (g) adequate levels of liability
9 insurance; (h) compliance with labor and employment laws; (i) processes
10 to enhance quality and safety; (j) meeting the needs of high acuity
11 clients; (k) increasing client contact by agency staff; (l)
12 identification of protocols and practices that are know to improve
13 client outcomes; and (m) not using public funds to encourage or
14 discourage employees to exercise their rights under section 7 of the
15 federal labor relations act. The department shall appoint a five-
16 member committee to assist it with the study, whose members shall
17 include representatives from (a) a for-profit homecare agency; (b) a
18 non-profit homecare agency; (c) an organization representing consumers
19 of homecare services; (d) an organization representing homecare
20 workers; and (e) the area agencies on aging. The department shall
21 report its findings, and a cost-analysis of implementing the proposed
22 system, to the health care and fiscal committees of the legislature by
23 December 15, 2005."

24 Renumber the sections consecutively and correct any internal
25 references accordingly.

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EFFECT: Directs the Department of Social and Health Services to study an alternative method for establishing homecare agency payment rates.