

How MN Lawmakers Voted on Disclosure of Healthcare Industry's Spending of Public Funds

Land Stewardship Project, Spring 2014

As the final weeks of the 2014 Minnesota legislative session were coming to a close, Minnesota's health maintenance organizations (HMOs) were busy lobbying to keep secret the details of their management of billions of dollars of public money. The Legislature was taking up a bill—HF 2167/SF 1770—that would require businesses that contract with the government to disclose how they spend public money. Only one industry lobbied for an exemption: the HMOs that contract with the state to manage Minnesota's public healthcare programs. (For more on this issue, see page 14 of the No. 2, 2014, issue of the *Land Stewardship Letter*: http://landstewardshipproject.org/about/landstewardshipletter/no22014landstewardshipletter.)

Both the House and the Senate **passed** amendments to SF 1770 that **exempted HMOs from the public disclosure requirements for at least one year**. See **Hortman Amendment** below for the vote count in the House.

Representative David Bly (DFL-Northfield) and Representative Tina Liebling (DFL-Rochester), working with Senator John Marty (DFL-Roseville), offered additional amendments to limit the exemption given to the HMOs. **Rep. Bly proposed a successful amendment that clearly limits the HMO exemption to one year, after which their exemption expires and they will be held to the same data disclosure requirements as every other industry in Minnesota (see Bly Amendment below for the vote count). The Senate, with help from Sen. Marty, also agreed to end the exemption after one year.**

Rep. Liebling proposed a good amendment that would have required HMOs to disclose their management of Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare dollars to legislative leaders, who are responsible for overseeing the Health and Human Services budget. Liebling's amendment did not pass (see Liebling Amendment below for the vote count). This means the Legislature will also have to wait until June 2015 to gather information on the HMOs' administration of the expanding pool of MinnesotaCare and Medical Assistance funding.

Hortman Amendment

Exempted HMOs from public disclosure requirements in Minnesota.

Yay

Abeler Albright Anderson, S. Atkins Barrett Benson, J. Benson, M. Davids Davnie Dean, M. Dehn, R. Drazkowski Erhardt Erickson, R. Fabian Faust Fritz Green Gruenhagen Gunther Halverson Hoppe Hortman Huntley Johnson, B. Johnson, C. Kahn Kelly Kiel Kresha Leidiger Lenczewski Lien Lillie Lohmer Loon Mack

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Bly Amendment

Limited the HMO exemption from public disclosure requirements to one year, ending in June 2015.

<u>Yay</u>

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Newberger

Liebling Amendment

Would have required HMOs to disclose their management of public funds to leaders in the Legislature.

Yay

<u>Nay</u>

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Allen Bernardy Bly Brynaert Carlson Clark Cornish Davnie Dehn, R. Dorholt Erickson, S. Falk Fischer Garofalo Hansen Hausman Hilstrom Holberg Hornstein Isaacson Johnson, C. Johnson, S. Kahn Laine Lesch Liebling Lillie Loeffler Mariani Masin **McNamara** Metsa Murphy, M. Paymar Savick Scott Simon Simonson Wagenius

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