

Because house Bill 354 would mandate a certain level of optional Medicaid eligibility, it unacceptably impairs the Human Service Department's ability to look at options in controlling the Medicaid budget.

H 364 HEALTH SERVICES REGULATIONS HEARINGS

April 8, 1997

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 29

I have this day VETOED and am returning HOUSE BILL 364 enacted by the Forty-Third Legislature, First Session, 1997.

This legislation amends the Department of Health Act and the Human Services Department Act to require both departments to hold public hearings on proposed regulations in at least one location in each geographic quadrant of the state.

Public hearings are an essential feature of effective and open government to allow citizens the opportunity to participate in the development of rules and regulations as well as proposed program changes. Accordingly, the Health and Human Services Departments publish regulations, conduct public hearings and receive public comment throughout the year and across the state. However, House Bill 364 would place into law a rigid "quadrant approach" to public hearings that is unjustifiably expensive and burdensome.

H 365 PRIMARY CARE CAPITAL FUND

April 11, 1997

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 75

I have this day VETOED and am returning HOUSE BILL 365, as amended, enacted by the Forty-Third Legislature, First Session, 1997.

This legislation is similar to and conflicts with SB 198 (Amends Primary Care Capital Funding) which was signed into law. Both bills remove an unworkable restriction in current law concerning liens on property associated with the issuance of loans for hospital projects. This restriction has resulted in the inability to issue any loans, even though numerous projects have been submitted and the need to improve hospital facilities exists.