

Missouri Veto of Bill Requiring Navigator Background Checks

On July 7, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon (D) vetoed a bill that would have required criminal background checks for individuals applying for state licenses as health insurance navigators. The bill would have prevented those with past convictions involving fraud or dishonesty from being licensed.



Nixon cited an error in the model legislation provided by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) as the reason for the veto. Both the model law and the Missouri bill reference Public Law 92-554, a federal law that deals with alcohol abuse and prevention. Nixon says it would have been appropriate for the measures to reference Public Law 92-544, which deals with federal criminal records.

In his veto, Nixon said, "It appears that in copying and pasting from this ALEC model act, the General Assembly failed to correct this incorrect reference."

He called it a "glaring defect" and "a significant drafting error" deserving of a veto. The legislative sponsor of the Missouri measure said he likely will try to pass a correction version of the bill next year.

"The bottom line is we want to be right when we do it," said state Sen. Mike Parson (R).