

HCS HB 630 -- MISSOURI TASK FORCE ON PREMATURITY AND INFANT MORTALITY

SPONSOR: Grisamore

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special Standing Committee on Disability Services by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute establishes a 23-member Missouri Task Force on Prematurity and Infant Mortality within the Children's Services Commission to measurably reduce the state's pre-term birth and infant mortality rates by proposing evidence-based legislation, regulation, and public policy changes. Six of the 23 members will be members of the General Assembly with two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, two by the President Pro Tem of the Senate, and one by the Minority Leader of the Senate. The task force must meet initially by October 15, 2011, and at least quarterly thereafter. By March 1, 2012, the task force must submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the current state of prematurity in Missouri. Final recommendations including any legislation must be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly by January 15, 2013. A final report evaluating the impact of implementing those recommendations must be submitted by January 15, 2015. The task force will expire January 31, 2015, or upon the submission of a final report, whichever is earlier.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the concept of the bill came from the March of Dimes and children's hospitals in the state. Almost 12%, or approximately 10,000, of the babies born in this state each year are premature. The costs to care and treat these infants are substantial and affect taxpayers and insurance premiums. The task force will help recommend solutions to the problems, develop best practices, identify resources, and create a realistic action plan. The bill provides for accountability. Missouri ranks thirty-third in the nation in infant mortality. The bill will have substantial impact on the health and potential productivity of children. The bill allows public and private stakeholders to generate evidence-based recommendations to reduce prematurity and infant mortality.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Grisamore; Suzanne C. Dalton, Missouri March of Dimes; March of Dimes, Greater Missouri Chapter; and Johanna B. Derda, Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.