

HCS HB 2402 -- REGULATION OF HOSPITALS

SPONSOR: Bondon

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to promulgate regulations for the construction and renovation of hospitals that include life safety code standards for hospitals that exclusively reflect the life safety code standards imposed by the federal Medicare program under federal laws and regulations. The bill prohibits the department from requiring a hospital to meet the standards contained in the Facility Guidelines Institute for the Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities but any hospital that complies with the 2010 or later version of such guidelines for the construction and renovation of hospitals must not be required to comply with any regulation that is inconsistent or conflicts in any way with such guidelines. The department is authorized to waive the enforcement of the standards imposed by these provisions if the department determines that compliance with those specific standards would result in unreasonable hardship for the facility and if the health and safety of hospital patients would not be compromised by the waiver or waivers.

Regulations promulgated by the department to establish and enforce hospital licensure regulations that conflict with the standards established under these provisions must lapse on and after January 1, 2018.

Hospital licensure regulations governing life safety code standards may incorporate by reference later additions or amendments to the rules, regulations, standards, or guidelines as needed to consistently apply current standards of safety and practice.

This bill is similar to HB 1290 (2015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill requires the department to align its outdated hospital construction standards to meet updated Federal requirements that are already required to receive Medicare reimbursements. The goal of the bill is clarity and consistency in regulation. Missouri's regulations are currently stuck on the 1981 version of the Life Safety Code. The code is structured so that current facilities follow the older version of the code and any new renovations or builds are required to meet the newest version of the code. The duplicity that currently occurs in Missouri requires hospitals to seek out waiver of Missouri regulations which increases costs without any benefit to patients.

Adoption of the updated code would increase efficiencies for Missouri hospitals while still ensuring the safety of patients.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bondon; Brad Taylor, Missouri Society Of Professional Engineers; Missouri Hospital Association; St. Luke Health System; and SSM Health Care.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.