

HCS SB 1274 -- MISSOURI AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS

SPONSOR: Shields (Behnen)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 13 to 0.

This substitute establishes the Missouri Area Health Education Centers program to improve the supply, distribution, availability, and quality of health care personnel in Missouri communities and promote access to health care in medically underserved communities.

The substitute also creates the Missouri Area Health Education Centers Council within the Department of Health and Senior Services and specifies the membership and term of office. The council will have discretionary authority to monitor and recommend policy direction for the program.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there are no state laws pertaining to area health education centers. The bill will make the centers eligible for state appropriations and better provide for the medically underserved areas.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Shields; and Northeast Missouri Area Health Education Center Board.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Bob Dominique, Legislative Analyst