

HCS SS SCS SB 778 -- HUMAN PAPILOMAVIRUS IMMUNIZATIONS

SPONSOR: Justus (Cooper, 155)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 7 to 2.

This substitute requires each public school district to provide to the Department of Health and Senior Services the names and addresses of all parents and guardians of female students entering the sixth grade for the purpose of mailing each parent or guardian information regarding the connection between human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer and that an immunization against HPV infection is available.

The parent or guardian will be requested to voluntarily provide a written statement indicating whether the student has received or is receiving the immunization or that the parent or guardian has decided not to have the student immunized. If a parent or guardian chooses to have the student immunized but is unable to pay for it, the student will be immunized at public expense in a manner determined by the department. Beginning July 1, 2009, the substitute requires the department to submit a report to the General Assembly regarding the number of students who have not been immunized against HPV and the number of non-responses to the request for voluntary reporting.

A student will not be prevented from attending school if she has not been immunized against HPV or if her parent or guardian does not return the written statement.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Unknown up to \$2,249,000 in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill only provides information, is not a mandate, and specifies that children will not be denied entrance to school if they are not vaccinated.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Justus.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.