

SS SB 1159 -- FORENSIC EXAMINATIONS

SPONSOR: Gibbons (Pratt)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding forensic examinations on victims of alleged sexual offenses. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Specifies that an appropriate medical provider must file a forensic report of an examination performed on a victim of an alleged sexual offense with the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the alleged offense occurred;
- (2) Specifies that if a medical provider reasonably believes the sexual offender could be a parent or guardian of the victim and the victim is younger than 18 years of age, the provider is only required to provide written notice of the examination to the nonoffending parent or guardian;
- (3) Requires the Department of Public Safety to pay for forensic examinations. Currently, the Department of Health and Senior Services pays for the examinations;
- (4) Creates the Sexual Offense Forensic Examination Compensation Fund to be used by the Department of Public Safety to pay for the forensic examination of a person who may be the victim of a sexual offense; and
- (5) Requires the Director of the Department of Revenue, or his or her designee, to transfer, subject to appropriations, money from the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund to be deposited into the Sexual Offense Forensic Examination Compensation Fund.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Unknown 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 makes modifications to legislation passed in 2007 regarding the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund and forensic examinations associated with alleged sexual offenses. The legislation is tailored to meet the needs of children who need forensic examinations.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Gibbons; Missouri Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and Jay Wood, Missouri Kids First.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.