

HB 697 -- DISPENSING MEDICATION DURING EMERGENCIES

SPONSOR: Cooper

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Homeland Security by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill adds state and political subdivision employees to the term "volunteer" as it relates to persons who can dispense medications for the Department of Health and Senior Services during emergencies. If the employee is not a health care professional and is not otherwise covered by the State Legal Expense Fund, the individual will be considered an unpaid employee and will be covered by the fund.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters of the bill say that local public health authorities have requested the inclusion of their employees. Other local and state government employees would be allowed to be used during health care emergencies, such as pandemic flu.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cooper; Department of Health and Senior Services; and Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.