

HCS SCS SB 157 -- AUTISM

SPONSOR: Schmitt (Scharnhorst)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute requires the Division of Developmental Disabilities within the Department of Mental Health to establish programs and services for individuals diagnosed with autism in conjunction with the families of persons with autism, the regional parent advisory councils, and the newly established Missouri Parent Advisory Committee on Autism to enhance a family's ability to meet the developmental and training needs of a family member with autism. The five-member committee will be appointed by the division director and is required to meet quarterly and submit an annual report to the Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders, the Governor, and the department director.

Each regional project must have a regional parent advisory council with its membership and responsibilities specified in the substitute.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will codify the regional projects that already serve families with autistic children.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Scharnhorst for Senator Schmitt; and Department of Mental Health.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill discussed a new clinic available for people with autism spectrum disorders.

Testifying on the bill was Joyce Anderson Downing, University of Central Missouri.