

HCS HB 1407 -- SICKLE CELL STANDING COMMITTEE

SPONSOR: Sater (Walton Gray)

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

This substitute establishes in the Department of Health and Senior Services the Sickie Cell Standing Committee as a subcommittee of the Missouri Genetic Disease Advisory Committee to assess the impact of sickie cell disease on urban communities, examine the existing services and resources to address the needs of people with the disease, and develop recommendations for educational services to schools on the traits of the disease and their effects. The committee will consist of 19 members, including one legislative member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one by the President Pro Tem of the Senate.

The committee must meet in at least three urban regions of the state to receive public input and to examine trends in the state sickie cell disease populations and their needs, existing services and resources, needed state policies or responses, and the replacement of the genetic testing and counseling program which has been eliminated due to lack of funding. A report of the findings and any recommendations by the committee must be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2012. The committee must continue to meet at the request of the chair and at least once each year after that date and submit an annual supplemental report.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that sickie cell anemia has no cure and is an inherited disease that is common among minorities and has devastating repercussions. There is a need for additional testing for sickie cell anemia due to the high risk of the disease being transferred from parents to their children.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Walton Gray.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.