

HCS#2 HB 1475 -- PARENTAL CONSENT TO THE USE OF A TANNING DEVICE

SPONSOR: Sater (Cross)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Rules by a vote of 7 to 0.

This substitute requires the parent or guardian of any person younger than 17 years of age prior to the minor using a tanning device in a tanning facility to annually appear in person at the facility and sign an acknowledgment stating that he or she has read and understands the warnings given by the facility and consents to the minor's use of a tanning device at the facility. The Department of Health and Senior Services must by rule develop a standard consent form to be used by all facilities operating in the state.

Anyone violating the provisions of the substitute will be subject to a \$100 fine, and any tanning facility violating the provisions of the substitute will be subject to a \$1,000 fine for each violation.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the tanning rays emitted by a tanning bed are a carcinogen and children are more susceptible than adults to the harmful side effects of carcinogens. The state needs to give guidance to youth about the harmful effects of tanning. The state has zero regulations for tanning facilities currently. The bill protects youth from future risk of cancer. Indoor tanning bed users are 70% more likely to develop melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer and a very deadly disease. Tanning is a risk because there is no such thing as a safe tan. This is a measure to protect our children in the same way we restrict alcohol and tobacco. Studies have proven that the tanning industry has advertised that tanning is actually good for a person and they have used deceptive practices to target younger individuals. There are no enforceable performance standards for tanning devices.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Cross and Barnes; Dr. Rachel Hailey; Paul Hummel; Brundha Balaraman; Dr. Karen Edison; and Missouri State Medical Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the misdemeanor offense in the bill will allow a person the right to a public defender which would be costly to the state.

Testifying on the bill was Office of the State Public Defender.