

HB 47 -- PARENTAL CONSENT TO THE USE OF A TANNING DEVICE

SPONSOR: Cross

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill requires, prior to any person younger than 17 years of age using a tanning device in a tanning facility, the parent or guardian of the person 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 develop by rule a standard consent form to be used by all facilities operating in the state.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that melanoma is the most occurring form of cancer in the world and is the second most common cancer found in females ages 15 to 29. Tanning bed rays are stronger than those produced by the sun, and people who tan indoors are at a significantly greater risk of cancer than those who do not. Requiring parental permission is another step in the prevention of skin cancer.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cross; Katelyn Davis; Dr. Brundha Balaraman; Dr. Gary McEwen; Missouri State Medical Association; American Academy of Dermatology Association; Missouri Family Network; and Missouri Academy of Family Physicians.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that it is current practice in the tanning industry to require parental consent to tan. The legislation is framed as an attack on the tanning industry and greater regulation of teenage tanning will cause teenagers to seek other less regulated forms of obtaining a tan. The tanning industry does not want the Department of Health and Senior Services to have free reign to regulate tanning facilities, especially because there are already sufficient federal regulations.

Testifying against the bill were Joseph Levy, American Suntanning Association; Roger Holmes, Celsius Tanning; and Randy Burleson, Club Tan Inc.