

HCS SCS SB 126 -- PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

SPONSOR: Sater (Morris)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding the scope of practice for physician assistants and pharmacy inventories. The substitute:

(1) Changes the definition of "supervision" by repealing the requirement that a physician assistant work in the same facility as the supervising physician 66% of the time the physician assistant provides care. The substitute requires a physician assistant to only practice where the supervising physician routinely provides care, except for existing patients in the patient's home and correctional facilities;

(2) Requires supervising physicians and physician assistants to sign an attestation stating that the physician will provide supervision appropriate to the assistant's training and the assistant will not practice beyond his or her training and experience;

(3) Requires the physician assistant and supervising physician to work in the same facility at least four hours for every 14 days of patient care;

(4) Allows a physician assistant to practice in locations within 50 miles of the supervising physician. The 30 mile limitation is repealed;

(5) Repeals the provision requiring a waiver for physician-physician assistant teams and places no supervision requirements in addition to federal law on the teams to practice in rural health clinics;

(6) Repeals the provision requiring the supervising physician's name, address, and telephone number be on prescriptions for controlled substances when prescribed by a physician assistant;

(7) Revises the definition of "physician assistant supervision agreement" by requiring the agreement to contain complete contact information of the supervising physician and physician assistant, locations where the physician assistant is authorized to practice, all specialty or board certifications of the supervising physician, and the manner of supervision provided by the physician; and

(8) Prohibits any Missouri licensed pharmacy from being required

to carry or maintain an inventory of any specific drug or device.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill is not a pharmacist bill; it is a pharmacy bill. The bill does not address a particular product or device, and it protects the right of a pharmacy to make stocking decisions based on what the pharmacy wants and nothing else. The bill protects a pro-life pharmacist who would like to make a decision based on his or her beliefs and values.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Sater; Missouri Pharmacy Association; Joanne Schrader; Concerned Women for America of Missouri; and Missouri Right to Life;

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill only say that they oppose the bill.

Testifying against the bill was Ann Lear, American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the government should not be able to force anyone to stock a product or drug. The problem is when the drug or device is in stock in the pharmacy, and a pharmacist refuses to dispense the drug based on his or her personal beliefs.

Testifying on the bill was Planned Parenthood Affiliates in Missouri.