

SCS SB 302 -- EMERGENCY PRESCRIPTION REFILLS

SPONSOR: Wasson (Elmer)

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

This substitute allows a pharmacist to dispense an emergency supply of medication without prior refill authorization from the prescriber in the event the provider is incapacitated or dead, or if the pharmacist is unable to obtain refill authorization from the prescriber. The pharmacist must, in his or her professional judgment, believe interruption of therapy might reasonably produce undesirable health consequences. The pharmacy must have previously dispensed or refilled a prescription from the prescriber for the same patient and medication. The medication must not be a controlled substance and the pharmacist must inform the patient or his or her agent that further refills will only occur upon authorization from the prescriber. The pharmacist must document the emergency dispensing in the patient's prescription record as established by board rule and must promptly notify the prescriber or his or her office of the emergency dispensing. If the pharmacist is unable to obtain refill authorization, the amount dispensed must not exceed a seven-day supply. If the event of the prescriber's death, incapacity, or inability, the amount dispensed must not exceed a 30-day supply.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill codifies the current practice in Missouri. The official policy of the Board of Pharmacy in the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration is to do what is in the best interest of the patient and the bill makes this policy law. The bill prevents an emergency refill for a controlled substance.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Wasson; and Kim Grinston, Missouri Board of Pharmacy, Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.