

HCS SCS SB 567 -- PUBLIC HEALTH

This bill changes the laws regarding public health.

Currently, an institution of higher education must require all students residing in on-campus housing to sign a written waiver stating that the institution has provided the student or, if the student is a minor, his or her guardian or parent with detailed written information on the risks associated with meningococcal disease and the availability and effectiveness of the meningococcal vaccine. The bill repeals that requirement and requires all students residing in on-campus housing to have received the meningococcal vaccine unless a signed statement of medical or religious exemption is on file with the institution's administration. A medical exemption requires a signed certification by a physician licensed to practice in Missouri indicating that the immunization would seriously endanger the student's health or life or the student has documentation of the disease or laboratory evidence of immunity to the disease. A student must be exempted from the requirement if he or she objects in writing to the institution's administration that immunization violates his or her religious beliefs.

Beginning July 1, 2015, the Department of Health and Senior Services must provide a courier service to transport collected, donated umbilical cord blood samples to a nonprofit umbilical cord blood bank located in St. Louis City in existence as of the effective date of the bill. The collection sites must only be those facilities designated and trained by the blood bank in the collection and handling of umbilical cord blood specimens.

The bill requires each hospital licensed under Chapter 197, RSMo, to offer, prior to discharge and with the approval of the attending physician or other practitioner authorized to order vaccinations or as authorized by physician-approved hospital policies or protocols pursuant to state hospital regulations, immunizations against influenza virus to all inpatients 65 years of age or older between October 1 and March 1 of each year in accordance with the latest recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention unless contraindicated for the patient and contingent upon the availability of the vaccine.

The bill makes technical changes and transfers the powers, duties, and responsibilities regarding the licensing and regulation of adult day care institutions from the Division of Aging within the Department of Social Services to the Department of Health and Senior Services due to the elimination of the division under gubernatorial reorganization.

The bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to create an adult day care program manual in partnership with the provider association to establish uniformity across the state and to offer regional training sessions in order to provide technical assistance or consultation to assist applicants for or holders of licenses in meeting the requirements of staff qualifications and other aspects involving the operation of an adult day care program. The program manual and regional training sessions must be made available to adult day care programs by January 1, 2015.

The bill changes the laws regarding the standard practices, inspections, disciplinary actions, informal dispute resolutions, license revocations, and operational manuals relating to adult day programs that are to be provided on the department's website.

The department may contract with an independent third party to conduct informal dispute resolution (IDR) for programs licensed under Chapter 660. The IDR process, including conferences, must constitute an informal administrative process, must not be construed to be a formal evidentiary hearing, and must not waive the program's right to pursue further or additional legal actions.

The department must establish an IDR process to determine whether a cited deficiency as evidenced by a statement of deficiencies against a program must be upheld. The minimum requirements for the process are specified in the bill.

A licensed adult day care program must evaluate the program rate structure in Fiscal Year 2015 and determine a cost-based uniform rate for services to be presented as a budget line item in the Department of Health and Senior Services Fiscal Year 2016 budget request for adult day care programs which provide care, treatment rehabilitation, and habilitation exclusively to adults and seniors with physical disabilities or mental, neurological, and cognitive disorders such as brain injuries, dementia; and other intellectual impairments, excluding the cost for individuals already funded by a Department of Mental Health waiver.