

HCS HB 1679 -- CONTRACEPTIVES

SPONSOR: Solon

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on General Laws by a vote of 7 to 2.

PRACTICE OF PHARMACY (Section 338.010, RSMo)

This bill adds the prescribing and dispensing of hormonal contraceptive patches and self-administered oral hormonal contraceptives to the definition of the practice of pharmacy.

HORMONAL CONTRACEPTIVE (Section 338.660)

The bill permits a pharmacist to prescribe self-administered oral hormonal contraceptives to a person who is 18 years of age or older regardless of whether the person has evidence of a previous prescription from a primary care provider or women's health care provider or a person under 18 years of age if the person has evidence of a previous prescription from a primary care provider or women's health care provider. The bill requires the Board of Pharmacy within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration to adopt rules as specified in the bill. All state and federal laws governing insurance coverage of contraceptives shall apply to hormonal contraceptive patches and self-administered oral hormonal contraceptives prescribed under the provisions of the bill.

CONTRACEPTIVE REIMBURSEMENT (Section 376.1240)

The bill requires each health carrier or benefit plan that offers or issues health benefit plans in Missouri on or after January 1, 2017, and provides coverage for contraceptives to reimburse a health care provider or dispensing entity for dispensing a three-month supply of a prescription contraceptive for the first dispensing to an insured and 12-month supply for a refill of the same contraceptive regardless of whether the insured was enrolled in the health benefit plan or policy at the time of the first dispensing. The coverage required under these provisions must not be subject to any greater deductible or co-payment than similar health services provided by the health benefit plan.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this is a Pro-Life bill that provides women with greater access to oral contraceptives. Allowing pharmacists to dispense birth control pills will remove barriers to timely access to contraceptives and prevent women from

going without birth control due to logistical factors. This bill does not expand health insurance coverage, it simply allows women who already have coverage to receive more pills at a time, thereby decreasing the likelihood of a gap in use. Studies show that many low income women at risk for unplanned pregnancy would be more likely to use birth control pills if they were not required to have a prescription. Oral contraceptives are a very effective form of birth control. Less unplanned pregnancies would benefit not just individual women but the community as a whole.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Solon; American Congress Of Obstetricians And Gynecologists - Missouri Section; Leslie Prichart, Family Health Council; Meg Boyco, Teen Pregnancy & Prevention Partnership; and Mevie Meed, Planned Parenthood Advocates In Missouri.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that it is important that women go to see their doctor and get a regular pap test.

Testifying on the bill was The Missouri Academy Of Family Physicians.