

HB 1878 with HCA 1 -- INTERCHANGEABLE BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS

SPONSOR: Solon

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 11 to 1.

This bill changes the law regarding interchangeable biological products. The bill adds interchangeable biological products to the laws governing when generic substitutions may be made by a pharmacist when filling prescription orders. The bill permits a pharmacist to substitute an interchangeable biological product for a prescribed product only if specified requirements are met and requires the dispensing pharmacist to communicate the specifics of the substitution to the prescriber using specified means of communication. The bill requires the Board of Pharmacy within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration to maintain a link to the current list of all interchangeable biological products on the board's website.

HCA 1: Makes technical changes.

This bill is similar to HB 1366 (2016).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill allows Missouri law to stay ahead of improvements in medicine so that our citizens can have access to interchangeable biological products as they become available. This would result in a significant reduction in the cost of prescription drugs to individual citizens and the state. This bill allows pharmacists to substitute an interchangeable biological product for an innovator biologic product, much the same way the law already allow pharmacists to substitute a generic drug for a name brand drug. The bill also establishes important guidelines for communication between the prescribing physician, the pharmacist and the patient.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Solon; American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network; Merck Sharp & Dohme And Its Affiliates; Sanofi Us; Phrma; Missouri Biotechnology Association; Missouri State Medical Association; Express Scripts; Missouri Chamber Of Commerce & Industry; American Congress Of Obstetricians And Gynecologists--Missouri Section; Pfizer Inc; Glaxo Smith Kline; Frank H Plescia, Boehringer Ingelheim; Amgen; Associated Industries Of Missouri; Novartis; Genetech; Bio Stl; Biotechnology Innovation Org; Arthritis Foundation; Johnson & Johnson; Arthritis Foundation; Abbvie; Janet O'Brian; and Joni Johnston.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.