

HCS HBs 551 & 919 -- MANDATORY REPORTING LONG TERM CARE

SPONSOR: Bernskoetter

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill amends provisions relating to reporting of suspected abuse and neglect of a resident of a long-term care facility who is 60 years of age or older or an eligible adult. Currently, a report is required to be made to the Department of Health and Senior Services in the event of suspected abuse or neglect. Under this bill, in the event of suspected sexual assault of the resident, specified mandated reporters shall also report to local law enforcement under the procedures of the Federal Elder Justice Act of 2009.

This bill is similar to SB 234 (2015).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that currently families don't always understand that a report is automatically filed with the Department of Health and Senior Services but not the appropriate law enforcement agency. That confusion can cause a delay in the reporting to the police and subsequent investigation, which can result in the loss of evidence and other problems.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bernskoetter; Missouri Education Reform Council; Maribeth Russell; and the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic And Sexual Violence.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill want to ensure that Missouri law does not conflict with the federal law.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Health Care Association.