

HB 2139 -- IMMUNIZATIONS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

SPONSOR: Morris (140)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee to Improve the Care and Well-Being of Young People by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill allows a child to enroll in school without having completed all the necessary immunizations if the child is homeless or in the custody of the Children's Division. Evidence of the immunizations or that the child has begun the process of immunization must be presented within 30 days of enrollment.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill would allow kids who are new to foster care access to child care, which gives them a sense of stability during their transition. Additionally, foster parents do not have to take time off work to request immunization records before being able to enroll the foster child in child care.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Morris; Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services; and Tim Decker, Department of Social Services, Children's Division.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.