

HCS HB 2413 -- BLOOD WITHDRAWALS

SPONSOR: Schroer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill states that a hospital and certain medical personnel may withdraw blood from a person in custody for the purpose of determining the alcohol content if they have the consent of the patient or are provided with a warrant.

The bill specifies that no medical hospital personnel or EMT can be arrested for or charged with an offense for failure to comply or held civilly liable for complying with these requirements.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the Supreme Court has said that drawing blood is protected under the 14th amendment. That finding conflicts with the current statute. Hospital employees and EMTs are in an uncomfortable position trying to balance the rights of the patients while still complying with law enforcement.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schroer; Missouri Hospital Association; Ambulance District Association of Missouri; Missouri Ambulance Association; Fire Service Alliance; and the Missouri College of Emergency Physicians.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.