

HCS HB 2433 -- SUICIDE PREVENTION

SPONSOR: Washington

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 8 to 1.

This bill requires that long-term care facilities have on staff at least one person who has received training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management. Each facility will inform employees of the name and contact information of such staff member and the process for reporting suicide concerns regarding residents. Each facility must provide a suicide prevention and awareness handout to residents. Any facility that complies with these requirements will not be civilly liable for a death that occurs in the facility that was caused solely by suicide.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that suicide is a significant public concern and is prevalent in nursing homes. This bill will give residents and their families peace of mind that the facility will take care of them in regards to suicide.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Washington; Richard Gowdy, Department of Mental Health; Wayne Lee; Voyce; and the Missouri Psychological Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill mentioned concerns with the language because it does not have clear requirements for inspections.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Health Care Association.