

HB 2463 -- EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONDITIONS

SPONSOR: Stephens (128)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill specifies that whether an ailment is considered an "emergency medical condition" depends on the person having sufficiently severe symptoms, regardless of what final diagnosis is given.

This bill is the same as SB 982 (2018).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill addresses an issue where some insurance companies would deny an emergency room claim for symptoms that a prudent lay person would believe indicate that immediate medical care is required, but where the final diagnosis ends up being non-emergent.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Stephens; Missouri Hospital Association; Missouri College of Emergency Physicians; and the Missouri State Medical Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say this misguided policy that was an attempt to encourage people not to use the emergency room for non-emergencies has already been changed by certain insurance companies.

Testifying on the bill was America's Health Insurance Plans.