

HCS HB 872 -- ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTIONS

SPONSOR: Shaul (113)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 14 to 1.

This bill requires all prescriptions to be an electronic prescription beginning January 1, 2021, with a few exceptions, as outlined in the bill. A pharmacist receiving a non-electronic prescription is not required to verify that the prescription properly falls under one of the exceptions and may continue to dispense non-electronic prescriptions that are otherwise valid. The bill clarifies that all patients have the right to choose whether they would like an electronic prescription or a written prescription.

An individual who violates these provisions may be subject to a \$250 fine for each violation, not to exceed \$5,000 per calendar year. The Department of Health and Senior Services will enforce the provisions of the bill.

This bill is similar to SB 262 and SB 293 (2019).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that electronic prescriptions reduce fraud and errors and will help reduce opioid prescriptions.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Shaul; Chris Roepe, Walgreens; Missouri Retailers Association; Missouri Grocers Association; Joel Kurzman, National Association of Chain Drugstores; Ken Whittemore, Surescripts; Hy-Vee; Missouri Pharmacy Association; CVS Health; and Sherifa Iqbal, Missouri Psychiatric Physicians Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that language is being worked, including language to make sure that physicians who don't have Internet could get an annual waiver from the bill requirements and language that would apply the bill to just controlled substances.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri State Medical Association.