

HB 445 -- CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PRACTITIONERS

CO-SPONSORS: Portwood, Cooper (155), Willoughby, Bishop

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill removes Christian Science practitioners from the mandated child abuse and neglect reporter portion of Chapter 210, RSMo, on child protection and places them in the mandated child abuse and neglect reporter portion of Chapter 352 on religious and charitable organizations.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill ensures that Christian Science practitioners are treated the same as other ministers for purposes of being mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Portwood; and Riley Seay.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Amy Woods, Legislative Analyst