

HCS HB 462 & 463 -- SUICIDE PREVENTION

SPONSOR: Cooper, 155 (Smith, 118)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding suicide prevention. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Includes suicide prevention intervention rendered in good faith at the scene of a threatened suicide by a mental health professional, a health care provider, or another person who has been trained to provide suicide prevention interventions to the list of care or services rendered in an emergency situation that are immune from civil liability;
- (2) Allows specified individuals to have access to mental health records if the information could mitigate the likelihood of a suicide;
- (3) Establishes the Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee within the Department of Mental Health to be responsible for the oversight, support, and promotion of departmental suicide prevention activities and for reviewing and recommending changes to laws, regulations, and policies; and
- (4) Requires the departments of Mental Health and Health and Senior Services to seek additional funding from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to allow participation in the National Violent Death Reporting System.

Certain provisions of the substitute will expire six years from the effective date.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will enhance the suicide prevention programs originally enacted two years ago.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Smith (118) and Johnson (61); Department of Mental Health; and Eastern Missouri Psychiatric Society.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Amy Woods, Senior Legislative Analyst