

HB 835 -- Office of the Missouri Surgeon General

Sponsor: Baker (25)

This bill establishes the Office of the Missouri Surgeon General within the Governor's Office. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Requires the Surgeon General to be a physician with a masters degree in public health or health management training or commensurate experience with public policy;

(2) Specifies the duties of the Surgeon General which include: serving as an ex officio member of the State Board of Health; developing strategies and offering advice on the allocation of resources on factors in our society that effect our health; providing health information to schools, employers, and private and public institutions; organizing and attending health promotional events; providing advice on health professional shortages; and providing advice and recommendations to health-related councils and organizations;

(3) Requires the creation of an Internet web site to promote healthy lifestyles for Missouri citizens;

(4) Requires the Surgeon General to develop educational programs and advise policymakers on the coordination of medical and health-related information management;

(5) Specifies that the Surgeon General will be appointed to a four-year term by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate; and

(6) Requires an annual report on the current overall health of Missouri citizens and any recommendations for improvements by January 31 of each year to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, President Pro Tem of the Senate, and Governor.