

HCS SS SCS SB 74 & 49 -- DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

SPONSOR: Champion (Cooper, 155)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding programs administered by the Department of Health and Senior Services. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Specifies that beginning April 1, 2007, immunizations administered to children under the age of three and knowingly pregnant women cannot contain more than one microgram of mercury per five-tenths milliliter dose;
- (2) Allows the department director to exempt the use of a vaccine from compliance with the mercury requirement in the event of a public health emergency;
- (3) Specifies that newborn screening requirements are not limited to the disorders and conditions currently listed in law;
- (4) Requires health care employers to make information available to employees about the risk of exposure to hepatitis C;
- (5) Requires the department to maintain a Missouri hepatitis C web site about the availability of testing for hepatitis C and information about hepatitis;
- (6) Creates in the state treasury the Department of Health and Senior Services Administrative and Cost Allocation Fund and the Department of Health and Senior Services Disaster Fund. The administrative and cost allocation fund will receive funding by appropriations, deposits, and moneys transferred or paid to the department in return for goods and services provided. The disaster fund will be used during a state of emergency at the direction of the Governor to furnish immediate aid and relief;
- (7) Allows any interest earned on the Missouri Public Health Services Fund to accrue to the fund and not lapse to the credit of the general revenue at the end of the biennium;
- (8) Requires a birth certificate to be filed within five days, instead of the current seven days, certifying the place, time, and date of the live birth by a signature or an electronic process approved by the department; and
- (9) Allows medical certifications filed when applying for a certificate of death to have their accuracy attested to by either a signature or an electronic process approved by the department.

Certain sections of the substitute contain an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$41,000 to Unknown in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008. Estimated Income on Other State Funds of \$41,000 to Unknown in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will help protect the youngest children who may be affected by mercury-based preservatives in vaccines, restore parental confidence in vaccines, and keep the rate of immunization for children high.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Champion; Lujean Clark; and Missouri First.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Amy Woods, Senior Legislative Analyst