

HB 1071 -- IMMUNIZATIONS FOR CHILDREN

SPONSOR: Phillips

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 9 to 2.

This bill allows the Department of Health and Senior Services to develop rules and regulations changing the manner and frequency of certain immunizations for children. However, the department cannot require immunizations for diseases other than those allowed by statute.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say the bill returns to legislators the right to decide which immunizations should be required for school attendance, and the Department of Health and Senior Services will still be able to determine the manner and frequency, including zero frequency of these immunizations. The bill will assure that future immunizations go through a democratic process before enforcing students to undergo vaccinations.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Phillips; and Missouri First.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that it will change current law that allows the department to add, through the rule-making process, immunizations required for school and child care attendance. Forty-five states authorize their state health department to add immunizations through administrative rules, protecting children without long delays in implementation. Since 1996 when the department received the authority to add immunizations through the rule-making process, one vaccine has been added for school attendance and two vaccines for child care attendance requirements.

Testifying against the bill were Department of Health and Senior Services; and Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies.

Dominic Lackey, Legislative Analyst