

HCS HB 1080 -- AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTERS

SPONSOR: Schaaf

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Healthcare Facilities by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute establishes criteria for hospital governing bodies granting staff privileges. A hospital governing body will not refuse to grant or renew staff privileges because the individual or individual's spouse or employees are providing medical or health care services, or have an ownership or other financial interest in another hospital, excluding a specialty hospital located in Missouri, or a competing ambulatory surgical center.

For patient safety, physicians, dentists, or podiatrists who perform procedures in an ambulatory surgical center that competes with a hospital are required to maintain staff privileges at a hospital in the same community; be responsible for admitting their patients; and serve on the hospital's on-call roster as other credentialed practitioners are required.

The substitute defines "hospital governing body," "medical staff," and "same community," and "specialty hospitals."

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say the bill is necessary to promote competition as a means of reducing the costs of health care. Competition will keep costs low and improve the quality of care for patients. Ambulatory surgical centers can perform services at a much lower cost to the patient.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schaaf; Missouri Ambulatory Surgery Center Association; Missouri Podiatric Medical Association; Missouri State Medical Association; Missouri Chapter of the American College of Cardiology; Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons; Dr. Tom Reinsel; Dr. Jeffrey P. Turk; Mary Dupree Wolf, MSN; and Richard Remis.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that patients are best served when they go to the nearest hospital. Going to the emergency room is quite different than having somebody being able to admit you. The best alternative is to specify that a person could not be denied privileges if he or she is clinically qualified and will provide on-call service.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri Hospital Association.