

HB 1601 -- EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

SPONSOR: Weter

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

This bill specifies that informed consent is not required for research programs or experimental medical procedures for patients subject to a life-threatening emergency when conducted in accordance with certain federal regulations.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say the bill will allow consent to be obtained later for certain research programs or experimental medical procedures when patients are subject to life-threatening emergencies. Currently, St. Louis University has been involved in a federal research program that subjects a patient to hypothermia to slow down the progression of damage to the brain when a patient is in the emergency room.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Weter; Missouri State Medical Association; and Missouri Hospital Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Dominic Lackey, Legislative Analyst