

HB 321 -- Missouri Surgeon General

Sponsor: Baker (25)

This bill establishes the Office of the Missouri Surgeon General within the Department of Health and Senior Services and requires the Surgeon General to be a physician with a master's degree in public health or health management training or commensurate experience with public policy. The Surgeon General's duties include serving as chairperson of the State Board of Health; advising the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services on developing strategies to improve health indicators; creating an Internet web site to promote healthy lifestyles for Missouri citizens; providing health information to schools, employers, and private and public institutions; and promoting public health information, health literacy, and disease prevention.

The Surgeon General will be appointed to a four-year term by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate and is required to submit 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.