

HCS HB 802 -- HUMAN PAPILLOMA VIRUS IMMUNIZATIONS

SPONSOR: Wilson, 130 (Page)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Health Insurance by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute allows the Department of Health and Senior Services to add an inoculation for the human papilloma virus (HPV) to the list of required immunizations for a female sixth grader to attend school; however, before the immunization can be provided, a parent must provide written consent to allow his or her child to be inoculated. The department must establish the procedures for school districts to provide parents of sixth grade girls with information about how HPV can cause cervical cancer and how an immunization can prevent the virus. The information must include the risks, symptoms, and prevention of HPV; facts about the immunization; and where additional information can be obtained.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$8,333 to \$180,000 in FY 2008, \$10,000 to \$180,000 in FY 2009, and \$10,000 to \$180,000 in FY 2010. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the goal of the bill is to protect women from a preventable cancer and to increase awareness of the HPV vaccine. It is a comprehensive approach to confronting the virus and cervical cancer. Many women are affected by HPV, and it is exciting that women now have this option to help protect themselves. Requiring health insurance to cover the immunization and the affordability of the vaccine should also be considered.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Page; Dr. Nina Kiekhäfer, Missouri Academy of Family Physicians; Kristin Metcalf-Wilson; and Alliance for the Status of Missouri Women.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the vaccine program needs to be an opt-in program because of social sensitivity issues, and materials about HPV need to be given directly to the parent and not to the child.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri Family Network.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say consumers must be aware that pharmacies make a profit on the sale of vaccines, but vaccines are cheaper than cancer treatments. Abstinence is a free solution.

Testifying on the bill were Concerned Women for America of Missouri; and Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.