

HCS HB 525 -- AUTISM

SPONSOR: Cooper (Grisamore)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Healthcare Policy by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute requires the Division of Developmental Disabilities within the Department of Mental Health to establish programs and services for individuals diagnosed with autism in conjunction with the families of persons with autism, the regional parent advisory councils, and the newly established Missouri Parent Advisory Committee on Autism to enhance a family's ability to meet the developmental and training needs of a family member with autism. The five-member committee will be appointed by the division director and is required to meet quarterly and submit an annual report to the Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders, the Governor, and the department director.

Each regional program must have a regional parent advisory council with seven to nine members having certain membership criteria as specified in the substitute. Each regional council must meet at least twice a month and is required to submit an annual report to the department director and the committee. If a regional council disagrees with a decision made by the division deputy director, the issue can be referred to the committee.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will codify the regional projects that already serve families with autistic children. Every county in the state is served by these regional projects.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Grisamore; Ginger Luetkemeyer; and Department of Mental Health.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.