

HCS HB 1631 -- SEXUAL CONTACT WITH A PATIENT

SPONSOR: Nance (Pollock)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Senior Citizen Advocacy by a vote of 12 to 0.

This substitute expands the crime of sexual contact with a skilled nursing facility resident to include when an owner, employee, or a person assigned to work in any health care or long-term care facility has sexual contact, sexual intercourse, or deviate sexual intercourse with a patient or resident in the facility. The consent of a patient will not be an affirmative defense.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that additional employment screening should be required in order to provide stronger protections for the elderly and disabled adults. Only one in five cases of elderly abuse is reported, and the bill is necessary for the safety of senior citizens.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pollock; and Patrice Donehue, Silver Haired Legislature.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.