

HCS HB 1650 -- STATE LEGAL EXPENSE FUND AND SAFE CARE PROVIDERS

SPONSOR: Cooper

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 12 to 0.

This substitute adds a specialist; a licensed chiropractor; a licensed health care professional under the direction of a licensed physician or dentist; a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable health care referral network; the professional corporation of a physician organized under Chapter 356, RSMo; any Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Child Abuse Resource Education (SAFE CARE) provider; certain specified free health clinics; certain specified charitable health care referral networks; and any social welfare boards created under Section 205.770 to the list of health care providers for whom the State Legal Expense Fund is available for the payment of certain claims filed against a provider.

Child abuse medical resource centers and providers receiving training from the SAFE CARE network are allowed to collaborate to promote improved services to children who are suspected victims of abuse and need a forensic medical examination by providing specialized training for forensic medical evaluations in a hospital, child advocacy center, or by a private health care professional without the need for a collaborative agreement between the child abuse medical resource center and a SAFE CARE provider. The SAFE CARE network must develop recommendations for medically based screening processes and forensic evidence collection for emergency examinations of children who are alleged victims of sexual assault and provide those recommendations to the SAFE CARE providers, child advocacy centers, hospitals, and licensed practitioners who provide these emergency examinations.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of More than \$100,000 in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill adds legal service coverage for health care providers who volunteer their services. Patients seen at free clinics often need care that goes beyond the scope of the clinic or the practitioners; therefore, providers give free health care services and would like to have legal protections for liability coverage. The bill allows physicians' staff to be covered by the fund making it easier for referrals to be made to specialists and their staff to provide free services to the uninsured and poor. The risk to the state is less than minimal.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cooper; Bridget McCanless, Jackson County Free Health Clinic; Linda Judah, Social Welfare Board and Missouri Association of Free Clinics; and Missouri State Medical Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.