

HCS HB 1898 -- WOMEN'S HEART HEALTH PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Cooper (Zerr)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 10 to 0.

Upon receipt of federal funding, this substitute establishes the Women's Heart Health Program within the Department of Health and Senior Services to provide heart disease risk screenings for women who are between 35 and 64 years of age, receive breast and cervical cancer screenings under the Missouri Show Me Healthy Women Program, are uninsured or underinsured, and have a gross family income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. The department must contract with providers who currently provide services under the Missouri Show Me Healthy Women Program. Any woman whose screening indicated an increased risk for heart disease must receive the appropriate follow-up health care services. If federal funding is not received, the department is not required to implement the program.

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill provides access to basic health screenings specific to women's needs. The program will provide screenings to help prevent heart attacks and encourage healthier lifestyles by using preventative measures. Heart disease is the number one killer of women in Missouri and the nation. In general, men are considered for heart health screenings more often than women. The bill provides more awareness of heart health for women.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Zerr; and American Heart Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.