

HCS SS SCS SB 682 -- Interventional Pain Management

SPONSOR: Dempsey (Richardson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 12 to 4.

This substitute prohibits any person other than a licensed physician from performing specified interventions in the course of diagnosing or treating chronic, persistent, and intractable pain or pain occurring outside of a surgical, obstetrical, or post-operative course of care. The techniques limited to a licensed physician are ablation of targeted nerves, placement of drugs in the spinal column, and other specified surgical techniques. These provisions cannot be construed to prohibit or restrict the performance of surgical or obstetrical anesthesia services or post-operative pain control by a certified registered nurse anesthetist or licensed anesthesiologist assistant. The State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of the substitute but cannot define or regulate the scope of practice of certified registered nurse anesthetists.

These provisions expire four years after the effective date.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that certain certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNA) perform procedures where there is not much room for error and these injections need to be done in a safe and accurate manner. Physicians, not CRNAs, have the proper training to conduct these procedures. Passing this legislation will not have an impact on the scope of practice of the CRNA because so few are doing these procedures.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Dempsey; Missouri Society of Anesthesiologists; Dr. Robert Fisher; Missouri State Medical Association; and Missouri Association of Physicians and Surgeons.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill dispute that there is a safety issue. CRNA's have extensive education and training and they are qualified to provide regional anesthesia. All these procedures are conducted under the supervision of a physician, so this is not beyond their scope of practice.

Testifying against the bill were the Missouri Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say it only affects injections using fluoroscopy, so it is very limited.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Hospital Association.