

HB 1411 -- PARENTAL CONSENT

SPONSOR: Cross

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

This bill requires, prior to any person younger than 17 years of age using a tanning device in a tanning facility, the parent or guardian of the person to annually appear in person at the facility and sign an acknowledgment stating that he or she has read and understands the warnings given by the facility and consents to the minor's use of a tanning device at the facility.

The Department of Health and Senior Services must develop by rule a standard consent form to be used by all facilities operating in the state.

Anyone violating the provisions of the bill will be subject to a \$100 fine, and any tanning facility violating the provisions of the bill will be subject to a \$1,000 fine for each violation.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the goal is to educate parents and kids about the dangers of tanning. Evidence-based science proves tanning causes cancer and skin cancer is the most common form of cancer diagnosed in adolescents. Supporters say that tanning beds are more dangerous than the sun and are not highly regulated. The bill is a parents rights bill that will save the state a lot of money in the future as a result of a decrease in cancer treatment. Supporters say minors don't have proper context for the decisions they are making and parental consent would allow parents to provide context.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cross; Dr. Brundha Balaraman, American Academy of Dermatology Association; Dr. Lisa Hiskey; Missouri Family Network; Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons; Missouri State Medical Association; Missouri Academy of Family Physicians; and Johanna Derda, Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHER: Others testifying, for informational purposes only, said that they support the overall idea of parental consent for minors but would like parts of the bill changed.

Testifying was the American Suntanning Association.