

SB 875 -- INTERCHANGEABLE BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS

SPONSOR: Schaefer (Hubrecht)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Social Services by a vote o 9 to 0.

This bill allows a pharmacist filling a prescription order for a brand name biological product to select a less expensive interchangeable biological product if the substitute has been approved by the FDA to be an interchangeable biological product, the prescriber has communicated that an interchangeable biological product may be substituted, and the pharmacist informs the patient. Within five days of dispensing a biological product, the pharmacist must communicate the name and manufacturer of the product to the prescriber, unless there is no FDA approved interchangeable biological product or a refill prescription is not changed from the product dispensed on the prior filling. The Board of Pharmacy must maintain a link on its website to a current list of all biological products determined by the FDA to be interchangeable with a specific biological product.

This bill is similar to HB 1366 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill allows Missouri law to stay ahead of improvements in medicine so that our citizens can have access to interchangeable biological products as they become available. This would result in a significant reduction in the cost of prescription drugs to individual citizens and the state. This bill allows pharmacists to substitute an interchangeable biological product for an innovator biologic product, much the same way the law already allows pharmacists to substitute a generic drug for a name brand drug. The bill also establishes important guidelines for communication between the prescribing physician, the pharmacist and the patient.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Schaefer; Missouri Biotechnology Association; Jim McKay, Sandos/Novartis; American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network; Kyleigh O'Brien; Brennan O'Brien; Associated Industries Of Missouri; Genen Tech; AMGEN; Missouri State Medical Association; SSM Health Care; Glaxo Smith Kline; Bristol-Myers Squibb Company; Express Scripts; Johnson & Johnson Services, Inc.; Merck Sharp & Dohme And Its Affiliates; Missouri Chamber Of Commerce & Industry; and Pfizer Inc.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.