

HCS HB 326 -- ABORTION

SPONSOR: Miller

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 6 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 4.

Currently, a person is not permitted to knowingly perform an abortion on a minor unless the attending physician has secured the informed written consent of the minor and one parent or guardian of the minor. This bill requires, except in the case of an emergency, the consenting parent or guardian of the minor to notify any other custodial parent or guardian in writing prior to the securing of the informed written consent of the minor and consenting parent or guardian.

This bill is the same as HB 1370 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the custodial parent is normally notified of all parenting decisions or changes to the parenting plan, except in the instance where a minor child is seeking to obtain an abortion. This bill requires that both parents be notified in such an instance but consent isn't required from both parents.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Miller; Campaign Life Missouri; Missouri Right To Life; Kathy Forck; Joanne Schrader; and Missouri Family Network.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that current state law already requires that minors seeking an abortion already have consent from one parent and the passage of this bill would add another burdensome and, in some instances impossible, requirement. In addition, in many instances the first time a crime against a minor child is presented is when the child becomes pregnant and is seeking an abortion. This bill would put teens at risk in the event that a parent is the individual who has committed a crime against the child.

Testifying against the bill were ACLU Missouri; Crally Yuggwa, Future Physicians For Progress; Naral Pro-Choice Missouri; and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Kansas & Mid-Mo.