

HCS HB 329 -- TRICIA LEANN THARP ACT

SPONSOR: Morris

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 11 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill establishes the Tricia Leann Tharp Act and specifies that the Board of Pharmacy within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration shall recommend two hours of continuing education in suicide awareness and prevention which must count towards the total continuing education requirement for license renewal for every pharmacist. The board is authorized to develop guidelines to establish the curriculum necessary for licensees to meet the requirements.

This bill is similar to HB 2697 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the goal of this bill is to help prevent suicide. More people die of suicide than homicide in this state and often people miss the warning signs of suicide, but it is preventable. Pharmacists currently interact with and counsel patients on a regular basis. This training could help pharmacists recognize and address warning signs of suicide.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Morris; Missouri Pharmacy Association; and Linda Fehrmann, LPC, American Foundation For Suicide Prevention.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that preventing suicide is an important goal.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Division of Professional Registration.