

HB 349 -- INSPECTION OF X-RAY SYSTEMS

SPONSOR: Brown (57)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Government Efficiency by a vote of 8 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill prohibits cone beam computed tomography systems and panoramic x-ray systems from being required to be inspected more frequently than every six years. The bill defines "cone beam computed tomography system" as a medical imaging device using x-ray computed tomography to capture data using a cone-shaped x-ray beam. The bill defines "panoramic x-ray system" as an imaging device that captures the entire mouth in a single, two-dimensional image including the teeth, upper and lower jaws, and surrounding structures and tissues.

This bill is the same as HB 1531 (2016) and HB 832 (2015).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill defines cone beam CTs and panoramic x-rays that are used in dentists' offices and requires inspections of these machines to occur no more than every six years, similar to the inspection time frames for the antiquated x-ray systems used in dentists' offices. Currently, cone beam CTs and panoramic x-rays are required to be inspected yearly and all costs for the inspection must be paid for by the dentist. Recommendations for frequency of inspection for these machines are all over the board right now because the machines are so new. There is no consensus on inspection frequency by the different manufacturers internationally; some say inspections must occur every five years, some say every 10 years is fine. The idea behind the bill is that all of a dentist's radiation devices can get inspected at the same time, which is every six years, to save on costs and inconveniences. The Department of Health and Senior Services classified the cone beam CT the same as a CT used in a hospital is classified.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Brown; Missouri Veterinary Medical Association, and Dr. J.C. Standlee, Missouri Dental Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that eliminating annual inspections is not a good idea.

Testifying against the bill was the Missouri State Medical Association.