

HB 569 -- COMPASSIONATE MEDICAL EDUCATION ACT

SPONSOR: Frederick

This bill creates the "Show-Me Compassionate Medical Education Act" and designates August 28, 2016, as "Show-Me Compassionate Medical Education Day" in Missouri. Citizens are encouraged to participate in activities and events to increase awareness regarding medical student wellbeing.

The bill requires medical schools in Missouri to include a notice, in a conspicuous location and font, that attending medical school has been shown to be associated with an increased prevalence of depression and suicide on their admission and registration forms and on their website. All medical schools in Missouri must also include such notice on their primary promotional, recruitment, and acceptance materials. All applicants and registrants must be required to check a box next to such notice and sign the application or registration form to acknowledge receiving such notice.

A medical school may not restrict any specified organization from conducting a study of the prevalence of mental health issues among medical students or punishing a specified organization or student for any involvement with such a study.

The bill creates the "Show-Me Compassionate Medical Education Research Project Committee," specifies the tasks of the committee, and permits medical schools in the state to collaborate with the committee to conduct a study of how to reduce medical student depression and suicide. The requirements of any study conducted under the provisions of the bill are specified and the committee is required to produce an annual report that must be made available on each medical school's website and provided to the General Assembly.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

This bill is similar to HB 1658 (2016).