

HB 762 -- DENTAL PROFESSIONALS IN HOSPITALS

SPONSOR: Barnes (60)

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 Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill allows licensed hospitals to employ a dentist, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, and a maxillofacial prosthodontist to treat conditions specified in the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill would allow hospitals to hire dentists to be on call for emergencies. Under the current law, a hospital can only give a patient with a dental emergency pain killers or antibiotics and encourage the patient to see a dentist the next day. Oftentimes, the patient does not see a dentist and will end up in the emergency room again a few days later.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Barnes; BJC Health Care Systems; Missouri Dental Association; and Missouri College of Emergency Physicians.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.