

HCS HB 1044 -- EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

SPONSOR: Lauer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill specifies that the state Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) medical director shall be elected by the members of the regional EMS Medical Director's Advisory Committee, shall serve a term of four years, and shall seek to coordinate EMS services between EMS regions, promote educational efforts for agency medical directors, represent Missouri EMS nationally, and seek to incorporate the EMS system into the health care system serving Missouri. The bill also specifies various rights and duties of regional Emergency Medical Services medical directors. It also specifies rights of Emergency Medical Technician Paramedics (EMT-Ps) related to temporary holds of patients who are significantly incapacitated by alcohol or drugs.

Currently, there are restrictions on whom a licensee who is the subject of an investigation by the department may have present during his or her interview by the Department of Health and Senior Services. This bill removes the restriction prohibiting a licensee from having other ambulance or emergency personnel present. During the subsequent proceedings, the Administrative Hearing Commission shall hear all relevant evidence on remediation activities of the licensee and shall make a recommendation to the department as to licensure disposition based on such evidence.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this cleans up language related to emergency medical services. Regional EMS directors are being asked to take on more, and this bill would allow them more time to act as requested. Furthermore, special needs patients fall outside the regular training but, through templates, the regional directors can provide a resource for local medical directors to interact with patients' primary care providers. There needed to be created a legal hold mechanism for psychiatric patients because that is currently lacking. There is no mechanism to hold an individual unless there is a medical issue. Individuals with rare medical diseases and medical needs need to be protected and EMS providers need to be protected if they employ special treatment protocols. They should be protected uniformly across the state.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lauer; Brian Froelke; Jason White; Darlene Shelton, Danny's Dose Alliance; and the Missouri Ambulance Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.