

SB 50 -- ESTABLISHES THE ADVANCE HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVE REGISTRY

SPONSOR: Walsh

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass Not Consent" by the Standing Committee on Consent and House Procedure by a vote of 7 to 0.

This bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to contract with a third party for the establishment of a health care directive registry for the purpose of providing a place to securely store an advance health care directive online and to give authorized health care providers immediate access to the directive. The third party contractor shall be solely responsible for the administration and maintenance of the registry. All data and information contained in the registry shall remain confidential and shall be exempt from the Sunshine law. An "advance health care directive" is defined as either a power of attorney for health care or a declaration signed by an adult declarant containing the person's direction concerning a health care decision.

All documents shall be submitted electronically to the registry at intake points, such as licensed health care providers and licensed attorneys, and signed electronically with a unique identifier, such as a Social Security number, a driver's license number, or another unique government-issued identifier. The electronic submission will be accompanied by a fee not to exceed \$10.

The Department may promulgate rules to carry out these provisions which may include, but not be limited to, a determination of who may access the registry, including physicians, other licensed health care providers, the declarant, and his or her legal representative or designee.

This bill is identical to SB 887 (2016) and similar to SS SCS SB 122 (2015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the health care directives registry would give health care providers immediate access to a patient's health care directive. Most patients do not carry a copy of their health care directive with them, and in the event of the emergency the registry would allow access to the directive.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Walsh; VOYCE; Missouri Health Connection; BJC Health Care Systems; and Missouri Hospital Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.