

HCS HB 1488 -- CLOSURE OF CERTAIN RECORDS

SPONSOR: Trent

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill specifies that the portion of a record that is individually identifiable health information under the "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act" (HIPAA) may be closed records as provided under Sections 610.100 to 610.105, RSMo, if maintained by fire departments and fire protection districts. However, fire departments and fire protection districts still must produce incident reports that contain certain information as defined in the open records laws, and those reports are open records.

This bill is similar to HB 1124 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill protects private medical records maintained by fire departments and fire protection districts.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Trent and David Pennington, City of Springfield.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they are not against the bill but they are working with the sponsor to make a few changes.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Press Association.