

HCS HB 1635 -- SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTING

SPONSOR: Bernskoetter

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill modifies provisions relating to the reporting of suspected abuse and neglect of a resident of a long-term care facility who is 60 years of age or older or an eligible adult. Currently, a report is required to be made to the Department of Health and Senior Services in the event of suspected abuse or neglect. Under this bill, in the event of suspected sexual assault of the resident, specified mandated reporters shall also report to local law enforcement under the procedures of the Federal Elder Justice Act of 2009.

This bill is similar to HCS HBs 551 & 919 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that while we normally let adult victims decide if they want to report sexual assaults, residents of long-term care facilities are particularly vulnerable to abuse and are often unable to report assaults to law enforcement on their own. This bill ensures that law enforcement are notified of any sexual assaults as soon as possible.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bernskoetter; Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence; Missouri Education Reform Council; and Maribeth Russell.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.