

HCS HB 1895 -- DEATH INVESTIGATIONS

SPONSOR: Neely

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill provides that when a death occurs under the care of a hospice, no investigation shall be required if the death is certified by the treating physician of the deceased or the medical director of the hospice. The hospice must give written notice to the coroner or medical examiner within 24 hours of the death.

This bill is the similar to HCS HB 405 (2017) and HB 2617 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that when a person on hospice dies, an investigation is unnecessary because it should be known what the cause of death was. However, this bill does not prohibit the coroner or medical examiner from doing an investigation.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Neely; Missouri Hospice And Palliative Care Association; and the Missouri Hospital Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.