

HCS HB 932 -- ADULT PROTECTION TEAMS

SPONSOR: Rehder

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Aging by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 0.

This bill allows prosecuting attorneys to develop multidisciplinary adult protection teams that protect elderly and other dependent persons from abuse. A "multidisciplinary adult protection team" is defined as a team of two or more persons trained in the investigation, prosecution, prevention, identification, and treatment of abuse of vulnerable, elderly, or disabled persons and are qualified to provide a broad range of services to these individuals.

The bill specifies that the prosecuting or circuit attorney shall use the team to investigate and prosecute an offender and to supplement any protective services by the Department of Health and Senior Services.

Adult protection personnel responding to a report under these provisions shall contact law enforcement upon receipt of a report involving a potential crime, provide law enforcement with a detailed description of the report, and request the assistance of law enforcement in investigating the complaint. If law information is unable to assist they must provide the division with a written explanation within 24 hours.

The bill includes provisions for coordination and non-duplication of services between other offices and departments.

This bill specifies that reports made are confidential and shall not be a public record. The agencies and departments that may have access to a report are specified in the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that most of the things discussed in this bill are being done which is why the fiscal note indicates no cost. However, this bill addresses the practices, procedures and coordination of the activities for these teams and all the people and agencies involved. This legislation was modeled on best practices from other states and what we know works well in Missouri and the sponsor is bringing this bill forward to protect our most vulnerable elderly population.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Rehder; Darrell L. Moore, Missouri Association Of Prosecuting Attorneys; American

Association of Retired Persons; and the Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.