

HCS HB 977 -- END OF LIFE CARE HOMES

SPONSOR: Roberts (161)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Aging by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 1.

This bill defines an end-of-life care home as a home-like dwelling place that provides shelter and services based on abilities, desires, and functional needs of terminally ill residents and establishes a framework for licensing and oversight, including inspections, notice of noncompliance, and license revocation by the Department of Health and Senior Services.

The bill requires a resident in an end-of-life care home to have a life expectancy of six months or less and be enrolled with a hospice agency. Homes caring for no more than three persons, or persons related to the provider are exempt from licensing requirements.

It allows the department to promulgate rules necessary to implement this bill and set standards and regulations for the homes. Any person in violation of any provision of Section 198.190, RSMo, is guilty of a class E felony.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that end-of-life homes are a needed option for people who want hospice care, but for many reasons are not able to be treated at home. With families that need to work, who live at a distance, have houses not conducive to the needs of someone who may have limited mobility, or other issues at the end of life, these types of homes provide a dwelling and assistance, just like an extended family would.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Roberts; Elisa Pellham, Integrity Home Care & Hospice; Sandra S. Hughes; Megan Spiering; Lynne Duffield; Liesa Matthews; Dr. Christopher Black, and Freeman Health System.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.