

HCS HB 1213 -- PROTECTION FROM ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION

SPONSOR: Schroer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 5 to 4.

This bill allows public school students to possess and apply topical sunscreen products, if supplied by the student or his or her parent or guardian, on school property or at a school-related event or activity. A public school shall not require a prescription or note from a health care professional in order for a student to possess or apply any sunscreen approved by the Food and Drug Administration for over-the-counter use.

This bill also prohibits anyone under the age of 18 from using a tanning bed or other tanning device, regardless of parental permission. The prohibition does not include any phototherapy device prescribed by a doctor to diagnose or treat a disease or injury. The bill requires tanning facility owners to obtain a permit to operate and to post a notice developed by the Department of Health and Senior Services at all tanning facilities. The bill also requires that a trained operator be present to assist customers at all times, that customers use protective eyewear, and that each tanning bed or device can be turned off by the customer while in use.

This bill is the similar to HB 518.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will help prevent cancers caused by exposure to the sun. There is a consensus in the medical community that any type of tanning should be restricted to adults and conducted in a moderate manner to avoid burning and skin damage that leads to cancer. Many young persons and parents are not aware of the potential dangers of tanning beds.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schroer; Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons; American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network; Heidi Lucas, Missouri Nurses Association; Susan Henderson Moore, SSM Healthcare; Missouri State Medical Association; Missouri Dermatological Society; Katie Blount, Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Kortni Moll; and Amanda Peters, Miles Against Melanoma.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that professional, licensed tanning salons do not present much risk of cancer.

Unregulated tanning beds and normal exposure to the sun are the cause of most skin cancers. A complete ban on tanning will only encourage the use of unregulated tanning beds.

Testifying against the bill were Monica Hoy, Tan Club; and Joseph Levy, American Suntanning Association.