

HB 1288 -- MINOR'S ABILITY TO CONTRACT

SPONSOR: Pike

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill adds mental health care to the conditions under which a minor may engage in a contract for certain services. The bill provides that any entity engaging in a contract with a minor under this section is immune from any civil or criminal liability absent negligence or willful acts of omission. The bill also adds verification by certain entities of a minor's status as an unaccompanied youth under 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a(6) as a demonstration of implied consent.

This bill is similar to HB 1035 (2019).

PROPONENTS: Supporters expressed gratitude for the bill because it is vital to helping teens who are in a very vulnerable position and perfect victims for traffickers and at risk for serious substance abuse and criminal activity.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pike; Kids Win Missouri; Foster Adopt Connect; Great Circle; and Missouri Coalition Of Child Agencies.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.