

HB 1276 -- UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH

SPONSOR: Pike

This bill modifies mandated reporting for unaccompanied and homeless youth seeking supportive services so that the youth's status alone is not sufficient basis for reporting child abuse or neglect (Section 210.115, RSMo).

The bill defines "supportive services" to include interventions, services, or resources necessary to assist unaccompanied youth, including food and shelter, counseling, case management, and legal services among other services outlined in the bill. The bill allows an unaccompanied youth to access supportive services as long as they are documented as provided by the bill. The bill exempts persons who in good faith provided supportive services from civil and criminal action without permission from the youth's parent (Section 210.121).