

HCS HB 1295 -- TIME-CRITICAL DIAGNOSIS

SPONSOR: Andrews

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1295.

The bill establishes the "Time-Critical Diagnosis Advisory Committee" whose members are appointed by the Department of Health and Senior Services as outlined in the bill for the purpose of improvement of public and professional education related to time-critical diagnosis, research endeavors, policies and recommendations for changes.

The bill also establishes a "State Advisory Council on Emergency Medical Services" whose members are appointed by the Governor to make recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Department on policies, plans, procedures and proposed regulations on how to improve the statewide emergency medical services system.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this improved on the current response strategy for emergency medical services and helps front line workers know the best place to take a patient.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Andrews; Christine M. Hoag-Apel RN, TNS; Christy S. Warren; Truman Medical Centers; Reesa Vanhooser, Pike County Memorial Hospital; Arnie Dienoff; Jason White, Mid-America Regional Council; University of Missouri Health Care; Saint Luke's Health System; and the Missouri Hospital Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say it servers hospital-related interests and the patient is not the primary focus. Those opposed also say this creates a barrier in communication between Emergency Medical Services and hospitals.

Testifying against the bill were Jeffrey Coughenour MD, Missouri Chapter, American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma; Matthew Brandt; Sabina Braithwaite, MD, MPH; and Katherine Probst, Missouri Ambulance Association.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.