

HCS SS SCS SB 43 -- HEALTH CARE

SPONSOR: White (Stephens)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 11 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by the vote of 11 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for SB 43.

TIME-CRITICAL DIAGNOSIS

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 (Section 190.100, RSMo).

AMBULANCE AND FIRE DISTRICTS

This bill specifies that, if an ambulance district board member or a fire protection district board member elected after August 28, 2021, fails to attend a training session within 12 months of taking office, regardless of whether that board member received an attendance fee for a training session, the board member will be ineligible to run for reelection for another term of office until the board member satisfies the training requirements (Section 190.053).

FORENSIC EXAMINATIONS

This bill specifies that the coordinator for the statewide telehealth network must regularly consult with Missouri-based stakeholders and clinicians actively engaged in the collection of forensic evidence regarding the training programs offered by the network, as well as about the implementation and operation of the network. No provider will be required to utilize the training offered by the statewide telehealth network regarding the collection of forensic evidence as long as the training utilized is at least equivalent to the training offered by the statewide telehealth network (Section 192.2520).

The bill specifies that, starting January 1, 2023, or no later than six months after the establishment of the statewide telehealth network, whichever is later, hospitals will be required to perform a forensic examination by an appropriate medical provider using an

evidentiary collection kit upon the request and consent of the victim of a sexual offense or his or her guardian when the victim is at least 14 years old. Victims between 14 and 17 years old may be referred to a SAFE CARE provider for medical or forensic evaluation and case review (Section 197.135).

PROVISIONS OF HYGIENIC PRODUCTS TO OFFENDERS

This bill specifies that the Director of the Department of Corrections must ensure that tampons and sanitary napkins are available for free to offenders while they are confined in any of the Department's correctional centers. The Director must ensure that the products conform with applicable industry standards (Section 217.199).

Additionally, every sheriff and jailer who holds a person in custody pursuant to a writ or process for a criminal offense must ensure that tampons and sanitary napkins are available for free to such person in custody, in a quantity that is appropriate for the health care needs of the person. The sheriff or jailer must ensure that the products conform with applicable industry standards. The General Assembly may appropriate funds to assist the Director or sheriffs and jailers in fulfilling their duties (Section 221.065).

HIV POST EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS

This bill allows a pharmacist to dispense medication for HIV postexposure prophylaxis subject to a written protocol authorized by a licensed physician.

Such prophylaxis shall include drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration that meet the same clinical eligibility recommendations provided in current HIV guidelines published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts and the State Board of Pharmacy shall jointly promulgate rules and regulations for the administration of this act and shall not do so separately (Section 338.730).

RX CARES FOR MISSOURI PROGRAM

This bill modifies the expiration date of the RX Cares for Missouri Program from August 28, 2019, to August 28, 2026.

MENTAL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

This bill requires that each health carrier that issues health benefit plans on or after January 1, 2022, and that provide

coverage for a mental health condition shall meet the requirements of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. These provisions do not apply to specified supplemental policies (Section 376.1551).

HEARING AIDS

This bill requires health benefit plans delivered, issued, continued, or renewed on or after January 1, 2022, to provide coverage to children under 18 years of age for those hearing aids which are covered for children receiving benefits under MO HealthNet (Section 376.1228).

MENTAL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

This bill requires that each health carrier that issues health benefit plans on or after January 1, 2022, and that provide coverage for a mental health condition shall meet the requirements of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. (Section 376.1551).

CREDENTIALING OF HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS

This bill modifies the definition of health carrier to include prepaid dental plans (Section 376.1575)

PROTECTION OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS

This bill provides that any special victim, as defined by law, shall not be required to reveal any current address or place of residence except to the court when in the private chamber of a judge for the purpose of determining jurisdiction and venue. Additionally, any special victim may file a petition with the court alleging assault in any degree by using his or her identifying initials instead of his or her legal name if said petition alleges that he or she would be endangered by such disclosure (Section 565.058).

This bill creates the offense of interference with a health care facility and the offense of interference with an ambulance service. A person commits the offense of interference with a health care facility if the person acts alone or with someone else to willfully or recklessly interfere with access to or from a health care facility or willfully or recklessly commits any of the acts specified in the bill (Section 574.203).

A person commits the offense of interference with an ambulance service if the person acts alone or with someone else to willfully or recklessly interfere with access to or from an ambulance or

willfully or recklessly disrupt any ambulance service by committing any of the acts specified in the bill. The offense of interfering with a health care facility or an ambulance service is a class D misdemeanor for a first offense and a class C misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense (Section 574.204).

DISTRIBUTORS OF HYPODERMIC NEEDLES

This bill specifies that, any entity registered with the Department of Health and Senior Services that possesses, distributes, or delivers hypodermic needles or syringes for the purposes of operating a syringe exchange program or otherwise mitigating health risks associated with unsterile injection drug use shall be exempt from the offense of unlawful distribution, delivery or sale of drug paraphernalia, if such entity is not located within 500 feet of a school building, as well as the offense of unlawful manufacturing with intent to deliver drug paraphernalia (Section 574.204)

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on SS SCS SB 43.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that early years of development are critical and a child needs to be given the ability to hear. Supporters also say this levels the playing field between private insurance and medicaid.

Testifying for the bill were Senator White; Missouri Speech and Hearing Association; Arnie C. Dienoff; Cheryl Abeln; Emily Samuelson; John Peterson, Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Kay Park; Veronica Zieba; Wayne Lee.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the bill started out too broad but it is now acceptable.

Testifying on the bill were St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition; and America's Health Insurance Plans.

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.