

SS SCS SB 41 -- ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS BY PHARMACISTS

SPONSOR: Thompson Rehder

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 9 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote 5 to 3.

This bill modifies several provisions relating to the administration of medications by pharmacists. First, this modifies the definition of a medication therapeutic plan by repealing language defining it by the prescription order so long as said order is specific to each patient for care by a pharmacist. This bill also repeals language from current statute defining the practice of pharmacy as including the administration of specific vaccines by written physician protocol for specific patients and adds language defining the practice of pharmacy as including the ordering and administering of certain FDA-approved or authorized vaccines to people at least seven years old or the CDC-approved age, whichever is older, pursuant to rules promulgated by the Board of Pharmacy and the Board of Registration for the Healing Arts, or rules promulgated under a state of emergency.

Moreover, under current law, any pharmacist who accepts a prescription order for a medication therapeutic plan shall have a written protocol from the referring physician. This bill repeals that provision, and permits a pharmacist with a certificate of medication therapeutic plan authority to provide medication therapy services pursuant to a written physician protocol to patients with an established physician-patient relationship with the protocol physician.

Under this bill, a licensed pharmacist may order and administer vaccines approved or authorized by the FDA to address a public health need, as authorized by the state or federal government, during a state or federally-declared public health emergency.

Lastly, a pharmacist with a certificate of medication therapeutic plan authority may provide influenza, group A streptococcus, and COVID-19 medication therapy services pursuant to a statewide standing order issued by the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services, or a physician who is licensed by the Department.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this program has been conducted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic for the past three years, and this is an effort to codify it into statute permanently due to the program's demonstrated benefits. Sections of law that specify

information to be gathered in order to vaccinate or test and treat a minor appear in two different areas of statute, but these do not distinguish between health care providers.

Testifying in person for the bill were Senator Thompson Rehder; Missouri Retailers Association; Missouri Grocers Association; Missouri Pharmacy Association; Hy-Vee, Incorporated; and Walmart.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

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