

HCS HB 901 -- WORKPLACE SECURITY FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

SPONSOR: Murray

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Crime and Public Safety by a vote of 20 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 901.

This bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to implement an education and awareness program to promote respect for health care professionals and educate the public on the legal consequences of assaulting such health care professionals.

Subject to appropriation, a hospital can receive reimbursement from the State for moneys spent on physical property or technology compliant with the National Defense Authorization Act, to enhance the physical security of the premises during the two years following the enactment of the bill, as well as for moneys spent on new payroll costs for security personnel, which can be obtained during the three years following the enactment of the bill. The bill creates the "Hospital Security Fund" to be used solely for reimbursement payments to the hospitals.

The provisions of this bill will expire on August 28, 2028.

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 bill came about from the year the sponsor spent in the health care industry serving as an analyst and project manager. Many times, when people look at crime they think of first responders and know they are not supposed to touch them but they do not extend the same courtesies to health care professionals including emergency room personnel. The goal of the bill is to foster a safer environment for hospital personnel. It also creates a program to allow health care facilities to enhance security in hospitals. It creates a Hospital Security Fund to allow hospitals to draw from to enhance their security. Hospital employees are five times more likely to be assaulted at work than employees in other industries.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Murray; Missouri Hospital Association; Arnie Dienoff; Missouri State Medical Association, and Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.

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.