

HCS HBs 984, 1023 & 1561 -- TRAUMA CENTER DESIGNATIONS

SPONSOR: Sharp (37)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Urban Issues by a vote of 5 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HBs 984, 1023, & 1561.

The bill specifies that the Department of Health and Senior Services will not deny trauma center status to a hospital based on its distance from another trauma center.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there is no rational basis for a geographic restriction on the designation of a trauma center. Any newly-designated trauma center would still have to meet all the necessary regulatory requirements. The best outcome for a patient would be to take that person to the closest trauma center capable of providing the necessary care for their emergency. Allowing more level 3 trauma centers to operate could reduce costs for patients who would otherwise be taken to a higher-level trauma center if their health issues could be treated at a lower-level trauma center.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Sharp; Mercy Health Systems; Scott Corcoran; and Jodi Fincher, St. Joseph Medical Center.

OPPOSERS: 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.