

HCS HB 1213 -- ASSAULTS ON HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

SPONSOR: Phelps

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health by a vote of 14 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1213.

This bill requires hospitals to display a printed sign in the waiting rooms of the emergency department and the labor and delivery department with the following text in all capital letters:

"WARNING: ASSAULTING A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL WHO IS ENGAGED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS OR HER OFFICIAL DUTIES, INCLUDING STRIKING A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL WITH ANY BODILY FLUID, IS A SERIOUS CRIME AND WILL BE PROSECUTED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW."

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 violence in emergency rooms, labor and delivery departments, and other areas of hospitals has been increasing in recent years, and in some counties a majority of nurses or other providers admit to not feeling safe at work, which is unacceptable.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Phelps; SSM Health; Coxhealth; Mercy Health System; David Barnes; Missouri State Medical Association; Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons; and Missouri Hospital Association.

There was no opposition voiced in person 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.