

HCS HB 1855 -- DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

SPONSOR: Overcast

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health by a vote of 14 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 12 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1855.

This bill adds alpha-gal syndrome to the list of diseases that must be reported to the Department of Health and Senior Services. Any alpha-gal syndrome case report must be submitted to the Department within seven days of receiving a positive laboratory confirmation.

Subject to appropriations, the Department may follow up on reported cases by applying a random sampling method for confirmation that the cases meet the most current surveillance case definition of alpha-gal syndrome of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The bill requires the Department to submit an annual report to the CDC summarizing its findings related to the reporting and incidence of alpha-gal syndrome.

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 work being done at the Federal level to fund opportunities to track the incidence of alpha-gal syndrome, and that states with many diagnoses can demonstrate the public health emergency afflicting citizens. Other states with prevalence are reporting their cases. Several witnesses shared their personal experiences with alpha-gal syndrome.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Overcast; Jeanette Kleewein; Kristie Callaway; Kristina Atkeson; Linda Hafley; Lyndsay Metz; Maureen Kleekamp; Megan Hammann; Alpha-gal Alliance Action Fund; Vera Pitt; Missouri Cattlemen's Association; Ashley Curry; Suzanne; Lyla Overcast; Jessica Overcast; and Adalynn Overcast.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill expands the Department's authority to designate, but in particular to enforce orders, findings, and rules to prevent the spread of noncommunicable diseases. This type of mistake was made during the COVID-19 pandemic as well.

Testifying in person against the bill were Jason Moore; and Armorvine.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill shared findings from a needs assessment that indicate awareness of the disease is high, but access to reliable information is not. Entities are applying for grants to study alpha-gal syndrome and competing for larger awards.

Testifying in person on the bill were Rachel O'halloran, University of Missouri; and Benjamin Casterline.

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.