

HCS HB 3457 -- MEDICALLY COMPLEX PEDIATRIC PATIENTS

SPONSOR: Byrnes

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health by a vote of 15 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 3457.

This bill permits hospitals with emergency departments to implement within existing electronic health records systems a clearly visible electronic alert or flag for a medically complex pediatric patient, as that term is defined in the bill. The alert will appear in an immediately identifiable manner, provide rapid, one-click access to the patient's care plan, if available, and function in a manner that does not delay triage or treatment.

A parent or legal guardian may request inclusion of the patient in the alert system, and can submit a care plan for the patient for inclusion in the hospital's electronic health record. Any care plan for a medically complex pediatric patient will be entered into the system under the direction of a licensed health care provider once the primary physician of the patient confirms the care plan; however, participation in the alert system is voluntary and requires the consent of the parent or legal guardian.

The Department of Health and Senior Services is required to administer the provisions of this bill within existing appropriations, and can issue model guidelines to assist hospitals in implementation of the bill's requirements.

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 many children with complex medical conditions have care plans that are not consistently acted upon in emergency situations. Hospitals and providers already use flags and pop-up alerts for mental and behavioral health concerns, child safety, and care coordination for certain conditions. This bill would assist in the bridging of the gap between a parent's or guardian's knowledge and a doctor's action.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Byrnes; Herman Smith; Arnie C. Dienoff; Rebecca C. Goggin; Marsha Goggin;

Julee Mitsler; Keli Stone; Jeff Aumann; Christine Aumann; Angela Sweis; Natalie Bravo; and David Barnes.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill described a voluntary program, known as STARS, begun in 2014 in the St. Louis area to address medically complex children. EMS providers opt in to the program alongside hospitals, with the goal of providing the best possible emergency care to patients.

Testifying in person on the bill was SSM Health.

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.