

HCS HB 1546 -- INFECTION CONTROL

SPONSOR: Cooper, 155 (Schaaf)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 8 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding infection control and specifies when incidents of ventilator-associated pneumonia should be included by the Department of Health and Senior Services in its quarterly infection incidence rate reports.

Beginning January 1, 2009, the substitute requires every hospital licensed in the state to develop a methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) control program to isolate infected patients; reduce the risk of MRSA transmission; establish procedures, protocols, and education for staff known to be MRSA-colonized or MRSA-infected; and establish an infection-control intervention protocol.

FISCAL NOTE: Not available at time of printing.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill makes health care quality data available to consumers; makes all cases of MRSA, vancomycin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, and vancomycin-resistant enterococcus reportable to the Department of Health and Senior Services; and clarifies the reporting requirements for incidents of ventilator-associated pneumonia.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schaaf; St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition; and Mary Yarberry.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the original bill will increase costs to hospitals, burden hospitals with reporting requirements, and require hospitals to shift staff from disease prevention to disease monitoring.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Hospital Association; and Linda Johnson, University of Missouri Health Care System.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill explained the disease reporting system and requirements of the Department of Health and Senior Services.

Testifying on the bill was Department of Health and Senior Services.