

HCS HB 1504 -- SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

SPONSOR: Cooper (155)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 7 to 1.

This substitute allows physicians to use expedited partner therapy under certain conditions by dispensing and prescribing medications for partners of persons diagnosed with certain sexually transmitted diseases even when there is no existing physician/patient relationship. Immunity from civil liability is given to any licensed physician using expedited partner therapy unless the action is negligent, reckless, in bad faith, or malicious.

FISCAL NOTE: Not available at time of printing.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will make treatment for partners of individuals infected with a sexually transmitted disease possible without a doctor/patient relationship, provides doctors with a powerful new tool in the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, and can reduce the number of people carrying certain sexually transmitted diseases.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Walton; Michael Williams, St. Louis County Health Department; Thomas Davis, MD; and Department of Health and Senior Services.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.