

HCS HB 570 -- ABORTIONS

SPONSOR: Davis (Harris)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 6 to 4.

This substitute changes the requirements for reporting abortions. The report the attending physician completes after performing or inducing an abortion must contain:

- (1) Information required by the United States Standard Report of Induced Termination of Pregnancy that contains instructions for persons with the responsibilities of completing and filing reports on induced abortions;
- (2) Information regarding the type of abortion procedure used and any drugs that were taken; and
- (3) The reason the pregnant woman sought the abortion and any method of family planning the pregnant woman was using when she became pregnant if the information was provided by the woman.

The Department of Health and Senior Services must add non-identifying statistical data to its annual report regarding post-abortion care and the weekly gestational age of the unborn child when the abortion was performed. A person who knowingly violates the confidentiality of any reports, records, or documents maintained by the hospital or abortion facility or received by the department involving an abortion will be guilty of a class D felony.

The substitute also creates the presumption that a person younger than 14 years of age who is seeking an abortion is a victim of statutory rape in the first degree. Any abortion provider who determines the person seeking abortion services is younger than 14 years of age or is between the ages of 14 and 18 and there are indications that she is a victim of a sexual offense must retain a tissue sample for DNA testing and comply with the state reporting procedures for the possible crime. Anyone violating these provisions will be guilty of a class A misdemeanor for a first violation and a class D felony for a subsequent violation.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Unknown in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill requires additional reporting standards for abortions and codifies current practices that are being done by the Department of Health and Senior

Services. The specific data that the additional reporting standards would provide will help identify the areas in which abortion laws can be improved or changed to help and protect the safety of the woman. The bill is important so that we can substantiate or disprove claims regarding abortion issues.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Harris; Campaign Life Missouri; Missouri Roundtable for Life; Concerned Women for America of Missouri; Missouri Family Network; Missouri Right to Life; and Missouri Catholic Conference.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that all abortions are currently reported by abortion providers in the state. Most of the requirements in the bill are already being done, so there is not a need to codify the provisions in statute. The number one reason a woman seeks an abortion is already proven to be due to the woman's economic status. The legislature needs to address the issues of support after a baby is born instead of focusing on abortion.

Testifying against the bill was Planned Parenthood Affiliates in Missouri.