

HCS HB 287 -- HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL IDENTIFICATION BADGES

SPONSOR: Brandom

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 18 to 0.

Currently, all hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and health care facilities require their personnel to wear an identification badge displaying the licensure status of the employee. This substitute requires the badge to include the employee's first name, title, and recent photograph as well as the name of the health care facility or organization of the employee. The employee's title must be as large as possible on the bottom edge of the badge in a single line in block type print.

The substitute specifies the titles to be printed on the badges for physicians and nurses and requires all other titles to be determined by rule by the Department of Health and Senior Services. Nothing will prohibit a health care provider from placing the provider's additional specialty or designation on the badge. A badge will not be required to be worn when delivering direct care if not clinically feasible.

A health care professional employed at the time the substitute goes into effect is not required to immediately replace his or her current badge, but the identification badge must be replaced within a reasonable time of the effective date of the substitute. All badges worn by hospital or health care facilities personnel must be in compliance with the provisions of the substitute within five years of the effective date.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that over the years there has been some confusion and the bill will ensure that a badge clearly identify whether a person is a physician or a nurse.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Brandom; Missouri State Medical Association; John Collins, D.O.; Missouri Society of Anesthesiologists; and American Academy of Dermatology Association.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that many hospitals and employees feel that an employee's last name should not be required on his or her badge for safety reasons.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri Hospital Association.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill were available to provide information.

Testifying on the bill was Larry Rohrbach, Missouri Association for the Homes for the Aging.