

HCS SS SB 758 -- HEALTH CARE

SPONSOR: Justus (McManus)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Standing Committee on Emerging Issues in Health Care by a vote of 12 to 0. Currently, for the purposes of the State Legal Expense Fund a free health clinic is defined as a nonprofit community health center, exempt from federal taxation, which provides primary care and preventative services to people without health insurance without charge. This bill changes the term "free health clinic" to "community health clinic" and modifies its definition by removing the without charge qualification. The bill also excludes federally funded community health centers and rural health clinics from the description of nonprofit community health centers for the purposes of the State Legal Expense Fund.

Beginning January 1, 2015, upon completion of a mammogram, a mammography facility must provide information to the patient stating that if the mammogram demonstrates that the patient has dense breast tissue, such tissue could hide abnormalities and the patient might benefit from supplemental screening that may be suggested by the ordering physician. These provisions do not create a duty of care beyond the duty to provide the notice specified in these provisions and the information required in these provisions or evidence that a person violated these provisions is not admissible in a civil, judicial, or administrative proceeding. The bill requires the Department of Social Services to reimburse hospitals under the MO HealthNet program for donor human milk provided to critically ill infants under three months of age in the neonatal intensive care unit, if the physician orders the milk and the department determines it is medically necessary. The donor milk must be obtained from a donor bank that meets the department's guidelines.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that under current law the State Legal Defense Fund includes free health clinics. The bill changes the term to community clinics and excludes federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics from the description of nonprofit community health centers under the State Legal Expense Fund. The Kansas City Care Clinic must now receive Medicaid patients, but doctors and nurses are still providing free care. The clinic board is concerned that the medical personnel would no longer be covered by the State Legal Defense Fund when providing free medical care and the bill addresses this concern.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Justus; Andrew Blunt, Mednax; and St. Luke Health System.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.