

HB 1643 -- CPR INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Hicks

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 12 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 10 to 0.

Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, a student may not receive a certificate of graduation from any public or charter school unless he or she has received 30 minutes of cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction and training in the proper performance of the heimlich maneuver or other first aid for choking given any time during the student's four years of high school and included in the school district's existing health or physical education curriculum.

This bill is similar to HB 457 (2015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that CPR training helps to save lives. Hands only CPR is effective in saving lives and training doesn't require any devices. CPR training helped one proponent recognize the signs of a stroke. Funds are currently available and waiting to be implemented by the American Heart Association. One proponent was able to use her CPR training to save a baby's life. It's important for parents to know their child's peers are trained in CPR in case of an emergency.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hicks; American Heart Association; Abigail Snodgrass; Parker Davis; Teri Ackerson; Aaron Grefrath; Mid America Regional Council; Missouri National Education Association; Missouri Ambulance Association; and the Missouri Society Of Anesthesiologists.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.