

HB 1337 -- CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Stream

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill requires each high school, including public, charter, and private schools, to provide instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and specifies that the instruction will become a requirement for high school graduation beginning with students graduating in the 2014-2015 school year. The instruction may be part of a health education course and must include hands-on practice and skill testing. A school district may develop an agreement with a local first responder organization to provide the required practice and testing. Curriculum sources and teacher qualifications are specified in the bill.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the main goal of the bill is to teach students a way to save a life. The instruction is intended to be a short class or session that could be given by any qualified organization or person. The instructor would not have to be CPR certified if the participating students will not be certified. The bill is not intrusive or oppressive on a school district by adding any curriculum standards or administrative requirements. Currently, individuals who render emergency care are protected from civil liability.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Stream; Jace Smith, American Heart Association; Melissa Creed; Sally Sharp; Donna and Austin Redd; Aaron Grefath; Mike Flanagan, American Red Cross - Capital Area Chapter; and Lonnie Landrum, American Red Cross, Jefferson City.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.