

HCS HB 1608 -- REGULATION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 8 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Social Services by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill creates a Controlled Substance Abuse Prevention Fund within the state treasury that is funded using fees collected by the Department of Health and Senior Services when issuing registrations to manufacture, distribute, or dispense controlled substances. Any money appropriated, gifted, granted, donated, bequested, or contributed for the purpose of funding the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs within the department must be deposited in the fund. The bureau is required to employ no less than one investigator for every 2,500 controlled substance registrants.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that according to a 2014 report, prescription drug abuse continues to be the fastest growing drug problem in the United States. Opioids account for 70% of all prescription drugs abused in the U.S. Pill mills are a huge cause of the problem. Common indicators that an office is a pill mill include: they don't look at a patient's previous medical records; there is no physical exam of the patient; the physicians prescribing are usually at the end of their practice or are addicted to prescription drugs themselves; all prescribing is non-therapeutic prescribing; they accept cash only; and they accept walk-ins only, there are no appointments allowed. Currently, nine states have passed pain clinic regulation acts.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Swan.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.