

## HB 1742 -- INMATE MEDICAL TREATMENT CHARGES

SPONSOR: Brattin

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Corrections by a vote of 8 to 3.

This bill requires any inmate receiving an on-site non-emergency medical examination or treatment from the correctional facility's medical staff to be assessed 50 cents per visit. The bill provides specified guidelines the department must follow when authorizing and charging for medical treatment of an inmate.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 129 (2015).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill would establish an inmate copay for medical treatment at correctional facilities. These policies would mirror federal policies. One state saved millions of dollars by implementing an inmate copay. The charge is only 50 cents, but it serves to deter inmates for repeatedly accessing medical services they do not need just for the purpose of getting a change of environment and contact with other individuals. This system of minimal copays for inmates has withstood constitutional challenges in the courts. There are exemptions in the bill so that inmates are able to receive medical care without being charged the copay, including for preventative health care, emergency services, staff referrals, and prenatal care.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Brattin.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they just want to ensure this copay will not prevent treatment for valid medical issues. The department has a policy in place that when an inmate wants to see medical staff, the inmate makes a request and they are given a time to see staff and be evaluated. Most inmates have a lot of freedom of movement, it is a small segment of the population that is in a more restrictive lockdown situation.

Testifying on the bill were Missouri Association For Social Welfare and the Department Of Corrections.