

HB 2617 -- DEATH INVESTIGATIONS

SPONSOR: Hubrecht

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill provides that when a death occurs outside a licensed health care facility under the care of a licensed, certified hospice, the county coroner need not be contacted and no investigation shall be conducted if the death is certified by the treating physician of the deceased.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that when a death occurs under hospice care, the county coroner and police are now investigating the death regardless of whether the hospice physician will sign off on the certificate of death. Under the bill, if the physician will not sign off on the death certificate an investigation will occur. There are many inconsistencies in the application of current law across the state and it would be greatly beneficial for law enforcement and hospice providers to have this change codified in law.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hubrecht and the Missouri Hospice And Palliative Care Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.