

HCS HB 1260 -- TANNING FACILITIES

SPONSOR: Schroer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 8 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 11 to 1.

This bill prohibits anyone under the age of 18 from using a tanning bed or other tanning device, regardless of parental permission. The prohibition does not include any phototherapy device prescribed by a doctor to diagnose or treat a disease or injury. The bill requires tanning facility owners to obtain a permit to operate and to post a notice developed by the Department of Health and Senior Services at all tanning facilities. The bill also requires that a trained operator be present to assist customers at all times, that customers use protective eyewear, and that each tanning bed or device can be turned off by the customer while in use.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that tanning beds increase the risk of cancer and that minors or their parents may not appreciate the dangers of using tanning beds.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schroer; Karen Edison, MD; Nicole Burkemper; Carola Gloyd; Alexa Farris; Kimberly A. Hoenecke; American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network; Emily Messerli; Missouri State Medical Association; Anne Leith Matlock, Missouri Nurses Association and University of Missouri-Columbia School of Nursing; Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics; Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons; St. Louis Children's Hospital; and Gary Cross.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that parents have the right to choose if there is a legitimate need for a minor to use a tanning bed and that sunburns can lead to cancer, not appropriate use of tanning beds.

Testifying against the bill were Joseph Levy, American Suntanning Association and Martin Price, Celsius Tannery.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the bill as written would prevent a homeowner in a condominium association or apartment complex from allowing a minor to use a privately-owned tanning bed.

Testifying on the bill was the Community Association Institution.