

HCS HB 242 -- DEATH INVESTIGATIONS

SPONSOR: Neely

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Aging by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill provides that when a death occurs under the care of a hospice, no investigation shall be required if the death is certified by the treating physician of the deceased or the medical director of the hospice as a natural death due to disease or diagnosed illness. The hospice must give written notice to the coroner or medical examiner within 24 hours of the death.

This bill is similar to HB 1895 (2018) and HCS HB 405 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the current system requiring the immediate attention of coroners and medical examiners for a death occurring in a home does not account for the growth of hospice care where deaths are expected. This bill is important for preserving the resources of coroners and medical examiners who may be needed for more urgent matters, and it benefits the family and the hospice providers.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Neely; Hospice and Palliative Care Association; and the Missouri Hospital Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.