

HCS HB 1798 -- VACCINATION ADMINISTERED BY DENTIST

SPONSOR: Busick

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 13 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1798.

This bill provides that a dentist may prescribe and administer vaccines to patients or to any person when the dentist is deployed to provide care as necessitated by a declared emergency. To prescribe and administer vaccines, the dentist must complete a training course recognized by the Missouri Dental Board. Prior to administration of the vaccine, the dentist must review the patient's vaccination history. The dentist administering vaccines pursuant to the provisions of this bill shall inform the patient and enter the patient's receipt of a vaccine into the ShowMeVax system.

All individual and group health insurance policies providing coverage for vaccinations shall also provide coverage for vaccinations administered by dentists under the provisions of this bill.

This bill expands the meaning of practicing dentistry to include a person who prescribes and administers vaccines for diseases related to care within the practice of dentistry and those who administer vaccines when deployed to provide care as necessitated by a declared emergency pursuant to state law.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 628 (2021).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill provides patients another venue to safely receive critical vaccines. Dentists have a higher level of training than many currently administering vaccines. Dentists already give shots daily, administering more injections than any other health care professionals. This will ensure greater access to vaccines for patients who otherwise would not have the opportunity to interact with another health care provider.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Busick; Steven Haas; Dwight E. McLeod, A. T. Still University; and Arnie C. Ac Dienoff.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that an established patient-physician relationship is important in the decision for and administration of vaccines, and only a licensed medical physician should be administering vaccines. Further, this bill does not provide enough specificity about the types of vaccines that may be administered by a dentist, or to whom. Those who oppose the bill have concerns with the administration of childhood vaccines by dentists.

Testifying against the bill was the Missouri State Medical Association.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill.

The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.