

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1454

As of March 7, 2011

Title: An act relating to testing for bloodborne pathogens.

Brief Description: Regarding testing for bloodborne pathogens.

Sponsors: Representatives Van De Wege, Hinkle, Green, Jinkins, Cody, Takko, Hurst, Liias, Hope, Stanford and Overstreet.

Brief History: Passed House: 2/14/11, 93-0.

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 3/09/11.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Staff: Rhoda Donkin (786-7465)

Background: Certain workers are considered at-risk of being exposed to another person's bodily fluids in the course of their employment. The state Board of Health has determined that these workers include law enforcement officers, firefighters, health care providers, health care facility staff, department of corrections and jail staff, and others. These workers may request that a person they have been exposed to in the course of their employment be tested for HIV. If this request is denied, the exposed employee may petition the superior court to determine if the risk was substantial enough to warrant the test. If the test is granted, the person being tested may also petition the superior court under the same standard to have the request for testing denied.

Summary of Bill: At-risk employees who are eligible to request an order for HIV testing on a person to whose bodily fluids the worker has been exposed, may also request a state or local health official to order testing for bloodborne pathogens. Court orders for the mandatory testing of an individual for HIV may also include additional testing for other bloodborne pathogens. The exception to privacy laws regarding the disclosure of information related to HIV for at-risk employees also applies to the disclosure of test results for bloodborne pathogens.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.