

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6584

As Passed Senate, February 15, 2002

Title: An act relating to syphilis laboratory tests.

Brief Description: Authorizing the department of health to establish a fee for syphilis laboratory tests.

Sponsors: Senators Thibaudeau and Deccio; by request of Department of Health.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 1/31/02, 2/6/02 [DP].
Passed Senate: 2/15/02, 47-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Thibaudeau, Chair; Franklin, Vice Chair; Costa, Deccio, Fraser, Parlette and Winsley.

Staff: Rhoda Donkin (786-7198)

Background: Currently the state is required to provide a standard serological test for syphilis, free of charge, to any physician or health care facility requesting it. Screening for syphilis, a bacterial venereal disease, is mandatory as part of prenatal exams. There are currently fewer than 100 active cases of syphilis in the state.

Summary of Bill: The State Department of Health is authorized to charge private physicians a fee for syphilis lab tests.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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

Testimony For: This is not an overly burdensome way of recovering some state costs.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Patty Hayes, DOH (pro).