

HB 4104 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 2/22, 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure designates the fourth Wednesday in February of each year as Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day. The measure declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is a chronic cardiac disease involving the thickening of the heart muscle, which can potentially lead to debilitating symptoms and serious complications, including heart failure, atrial fibrillation, stroke, and in rare cases, sudden cardiac death. HCM is the most common inheritable heart disease and can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, or ethnicity, with a reported prevalence ranging from 1 in 200 to 1 in 500 in the general population. An estimated 700,000 to 1,650,000 people in the United States have HCM, yet 85 percent of them remain undiagnosed.

HCM shares symptoms with other common cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases, including shortness of breath, chest pain, fatigue, palpitations, and fainting, making it difficult to distinguish HCM from those other diseases. The all-cause mortality risk is three to four times higher in patients with untreated HCM than that of the general population. Knowing one's medical history and being familiar with the signs and symptoms of HCM is an important first step in receiving an accurate diagnosis of HCM.

Several state legislatures adopted resolutions in 2023 designating the fourth Wednesday in February as Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Awareness Day, including California, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Tennessee. Similar measures have been introduced this year in Georgia, Florida, Missouri, Washington, and Wisconsin.