

SB 142 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Prepared By: Brian Nieuburt, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Changes “human immunodeficiency virus” and “acquired immune deficiency syndrome” to “blood-borne pathogen.” Changes “venereal disease” and “sexually transmitted disease” to “sexually transmitted disease.”

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Changes “HIV or hepatitis B or C” to “blood-borne infection.” Changes “blood-borne pathogen” to “blood-borne infection.”

BACKGROUND:

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) attacks the body’s immune system, specifically the CD4 cells (T cells), which help the immune system fight off infections. Untreated, HIV reduces the number of T cells in the body, making the person more likely to get other infections or infection-related cancers. Over time, HIV can destroy so many of these cells that the body can’t fight off infections and disease. These opportunistic infections or cancers take advantage of a very weak immune system and signal that the person has AIDS, the last stage of HIV infection. Unlike some other viruses, the human body can’t get rid of HIV completely, even with treatment.

Senate Bill 142 updates statutory terms related to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).