

HCS HB 1246 -- CHIROPRACTORS

SPONSOR: Behnen (Portwood)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 14 to 0.

This substitute makes changes to the laws regarding the practice of chiropractic. The substitute:

- (1) Allows for the practice of chiropractic across state lines. Chiropractors licensed in other states are not required to obtain a Missouri license to practice chiropractic while in consultation with a chiropractor licensed to practice in this state as a result of the transmission of patient data through electronic or other means. The chiropractor licensed in this state retains ultimate authority and responsibility for the diagnosis and treatment of the patient;
- (2) Removes the equivalent reciprocal licensing requirements which must be met prior to allowing licensees from other states to be eligible for licensure in Missouri without examination;
- (3) Allows licensed chiropractors to make application with the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners for certification in meridian therapy/acupressure/acupuncture. The board is authorized to establish minimum requirements for the specialty certification;
- (4) Increases from three to five years the time a licensee may let their license lapse prior to being required to attend an accredited chiropractic college for training in order to have their license reinstated;
- (5) Establishes provisions for inactive licenses and authorizes the board to create the requirements necessary to gain inactive status. Persons having discontinued their licenses because of retirement will be allowed to practice on themselves and their immediate family. Persons holding inactive licenses are not required to comply with continuing education requirements; and
- (6) Creates record-keeping requirements. Licensees are required to maintain patient records for a minimum of seven years. All additions, corrections, and changes to any records must be made within 48 hours after the final entry made into the record and signed by the chiropractor. The board cannot initiate disciplinary action against a licensee solely on the basis of inadequate record keeping.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2005, FY

2006, and FY 2007. Estimated Income on Other State Funds of \$2,500 in FY 2005, \$75 in FY 2006, and \$77 in FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this is a clean-up bill. It contains provisions needed to update the statutes in order to improve the practice of chiropractic in Missouri.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Portwood; and State Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that they have concerns with the intent of certain language relating to diagnosis, treatment, and prescribing.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.

Bob Dominique, Legislative Analyst