

HCS SCS SB 1181 -- PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

SPONSOR: Yeckel (Ruestman)

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

This substitute changes the laws regarding the licensing of physical therapists and physical therapy assistants. Persons having failed the physical therapy or physical therapist assistant licensing exam three or more times may be licensed by the State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts if they hold an unsanctioned license from another state and have maintained a clinical practice for the previous three years. Persons having failed the physical therapy licensing exam three or more times and not holding a license from another state may take the licensing exam three additional times if they have obtained a professional degree in physical therapy at a higher level than previously completed.

The substitute also requires that temporary licenses for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants only be valid for 90 days or until the results of the licensing exam are received.

The substitute also makes it a cause for discipline when a licensed physical therapist practices independent of the prescription and direction of a physician, dentist, or podiatrist licensed in another state.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill allows persons who have failed the Missouri physical therapy licensing exam three or more times, but have obtained a license to practice physical therapy in another state, to apply for licensure in Missouri.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Yeckel; Missouri Physical Therapy Association; Gary Burton; and Missouri Hospital Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Bob Dominique, Legislative Analyst