

HCS SCS SB 100 -- SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

SPONSOR: Champion (Dixon)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 12 to 0.

This substitute requires that speech language pathology bachelor degrees be from an institution approved by a regional accrediting body. Persons with audiology clinical doctoral degrees are exempt from the current fellowship requirements in order to become licensed.

The Missouri Academy of Audiology and the Missouri Speech-Language-Hearing Association must recommend to the State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts qualified persons to fill vacancies on the Advisory Commission for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association no longer accredits bachelor programs in speech language pathology so the law needs to be updated to allow for accreditation of these programs on a regional level.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Champion; State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts; and American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Bob Dominique, Legislative Analyst