

HCS HB 450 -- MISSOURI HEALTH PROFESSION SHORTAGE PLANNING
COMMISSION

SPONSOR: Hunter (Baker, 25)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Workforce Development and Workplace Safety by a vote of 12 to 0.

This substitute establishes the Missouri Health Profession Shortage Planning Commission within the Department of Economic Development. Members appointed to the commission are to be recognized as experts in the field of health, finance, economics, or health facility management and must be appointed within 30 days of the effective date of the substitute. Non-legislative members will serve a three-year term, while legislative members will serve through their current legislative term.

The commission's duties include monitoring data and trends in the health profession workforce, making recommendations on the economic cluster for health care professions, identifying recruitment and retention strategies for higher education health care programs, promoting diversity, making recommendations on financial and other assistance to students enrolled in health care programs, and identifying recruitment and retention strategies for health care employers.

The commission will annually submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the appropriate standing committees of the General Assembly.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$31,330 in FY 2008, \$20,886 in FY 2009, and \$20,886 in FY 2010. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that Missouri is faced with shortages in health care infrastructure and personnel particularly in the area of elder care. The commission will provide a clearer picture of the current and future needs of Missouri's aging population and give a strategic, multi-disciplinary plan to expediently address the problems.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Baker (25); Joe Perlle, University of Missouri; Missouri Southern State University; and Missouri Hospital Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.