

HB 554 -- DISCRIMINATION OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

SPONSOR: Cooper (155)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 9 to 1.

This bill prohibits state and local agencies, including school districts, from discriminating between licensed professional counselors when establishing rules or when requiring or recommending services that may be legally performed by licensed professional counselors.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill provides necessary protections against discrimination already in place for licensed clinical social workers to licensed professional counselors.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cooper (155); Missouri Mental Health Counselors Association; National Association of Social Workers; and Missouri Psychological Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.