

HCS HB 780 -- PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

SPONSOR: Wasson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding the licensure of certain professions in the Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions, and Professional Registration.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSE RENEWAL

The substitute adds deaf interpreters, occupational therapists, clinical perfusionists, dietitians, massage therapists, interior designers, acupuncturists, and tattooists to the list of licensed professionals who are allowed to extend their license renewal with the division while on active military duty.

ENDOWED CARE CEMETERIES

Operators of endowed care cemeteries, as a condition of license renewal, must file a trust fund report with the division. The definition of "funeral establishment" is expanded to include a crematory.

PHYSICAL THERAPY

The membership of the Advisory Commission for Physical Therapists under the State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts is changed from five licensed physical therapists to four physical therapists and one physical therapist assistant licensed in this state.

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

The reciprocity provision regarding professional counselors is changed to allow a person licensed as a professional counselor in another state who is at least 18 years of age, is of good moral character, and is a citizen of or legally present in the United States to receive a license without passing an examination.

MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

The reciprocity provision regarding licensed marital and family therapists is changed to allow a person holding a current, unsanctioned license from another state whose requirements are substantially the same as Missouri's to apply for a license with

the State Committee on Marital and Family Therapists within the department without passing an examination.

PHARMACY

The substitute changes the laws regarding the State Board of Pharmacy. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Removes the one-year time limit for an intern pharmacist license;
- (2) Repeals language authorizing the board to establish rules restricting the practice of intern pharmacists;
- (3) Creates a veterinary class for pharmacy permits or licenses; and
- (4) Specifies that the veterinary pharmacy permit will not interfere with a licensed veterinarian when compounding or dispensing his or her own prescriptions.

REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS

The substitute changes the laws regarding the Missouri Real Estate Appraisers Commission and real estate appraisers. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Repeals the requirement that members of the commission be members in good standing of a nationally recognized real estate appraisal organization;
- (2) Repeals the provision regarding the term of office of initial members of the commission;
- (3) Repeals the provision authorizing the commission to decide the location of future quarterly meetings;
- (4) Authorizes the commission to administer oaths and issue and enforce subpoenas;
- (5) Repeals the provision authorizing the commission to waive continuing education requirements for retired or disabled appraisers; and
- (6) Allows a person to renew his or her expired license within a one-year period if evidence of the completion of all continuing education requirements is provided and authorizes the commission to issue inactive licenses.

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

FY 2010.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that many licensees are serving on active duty and while overseas are unable to renew their licenses at the appropriate time. The bill will allow them to renew their license when they return.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wasson; and Division of Professional Registration, Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions, and Professional Registration.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.