

HCS SCS SB 272 -- PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

SPONSOR: Scott (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.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

The substitute allows the Missouri Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors, and Landscape Architects to establish continuing education requirements and authorize inactive licenses under certain circumstances. License renewal fees are waived for licensees older than 75 years of age.

CHIROPRACTORS

The substitute requires an applicant for licensure as a chiropractor to furnish the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners with evidence that he or she has completed the minimum number of hours of course study required by the Council on Chiropractic Education, or its successor, prior to beginning any doctoral course of study in chiropractic. However, the applicant must have completed at least 90 semester credit hours before beginning the doctoral course.

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

The substitute allows a person in an approved, entry-level professional education program if he or she is satisfying the supervised clinical education requirements while under the on-site supervision of a physical therapist or practicing in the armed forces, the United States Public Health Service, or the Veterans Administration to practice as a physical therapist.

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 without passing an examination.

PHARMACISTS

The substitute changes the laws regarding the State Board of Pharmacy. 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. 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.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill clarifies the law regarding physical therapists and physical therapy assistants working on their clinical requirements. There is a large number of licensed physical therapy assistants in this state, and they should be represented on the advisory commission.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Parson; Senator Scott; and Bill Hopfinger, Missouri Physical Therapy Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.