

SCS SB 482 -- MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

SPONSOR: Gibbons (Bearden)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute revises the definition of "marital and family therapy" to include diagnosing marital, family, and individual behavior within the context of marital and family systems. Additional educational requirements in diagnostic systems and supervised diagnosis are specified, and continuing education requirements are established.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill authorizes marital and family therapists to do what they are currently doing. The statutes say that these therapists can evaluate, assess, and treat; but they can't do these without diagnosing.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Gibbons; Tom Conran; and Dr. Craig Smith.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.