

HCS HB 1700 -- PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

SPONSOR: Wasson

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

This substitute changes the laws regarding the licensure or registration of certain professionals in the Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions, and Professional Registration and the Missouri Public Service Commission.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Certified public accountants who live out of state may qualify for a Missouri license if the state in which they hold their license has equivalent qualifications. Applicants must have an unrestricted license in their state and can only practice with a firm holding a valid state permit to practice certified public accountancy.

Permit requirements for certified public accounting firms are also expanded.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSES

The substitute allows Christian Science nurses to provide religious, nonmedical services to any person who chooses to rely upon healing by spiritual means alone. The provision which specifies that only individuals listed in the Christian Science Journal as Christian Science nurses may use the title Christian Science nurse is repealed.

BOARD OF PHARMACY

The position of Executive Director and Inspector within the State Board of Pharmacy must have at least three years of pharmacy experience. The substitute requires that professional positions within the board be compensated at the composite average for the corresponding positions within adjoining states and requires the board to annually conduct an equitable salary survey in order to determine the need for salary adjustments.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

The substitute allows real estate brokers to affiliate with out-of-state real estate brokers or salespersons for transactions involving commercial real estate if those out-of-state licensees consent to certain requirements specified in the substitute.

MANUFACTURED HOUSING

Currently, every manufactured housing manufacturer or dealer who offers for sale four or more manufactured homes in any consecutive 12-month period must register with the Missouri Public Service Commission. The substitute changes the registration requirement to those who offer to sell four or more used homes or one or more new manufactured homes or modular units within that time period. The Manufactured Housing Consumer Recovery Fund is created to pay, subject to appropriations, claims filed by aggrieved consumers who have exhausted all other legal remedies. Manufactured home dealers are required to provide purchasers with a bill of sale or purchase agreement containing the serial number, if available, or the manufacturer name and model number of the unit along with any waivers. Every manufactured home dealer must register and pay a \$200 registration or renewal fee by January 15 of each year with a permanent physical address and telephone number of the place where the files and other records are located for inspection.

The commission may refuse to register an applicant or may suspend or revoke a registration, which will apply to all registrations held by the dealer, if there is a consistent pattern of abuse. The commission, through its general counsel, may seek remedies in a circuit court for violations.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011. Estimated Cost on Other State Funds of Unknown less than \$91,205 in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill allows practice across state lines and provides automatic jurisdiction. Missouri certified public accountants will be able to conduct business in the manner as those licensed in other states.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wasson; Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants; and Chuck Pierce.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.