

HB 2454 -- Licensure of Bail Bond and Surety Recovery Agents

Sponsor: Kraus

This bill changes the laws regarding the licensure of bail bond and surety recovery agents. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Establishes the Professional Bail Bonds Board within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions, and Professional Registration and specifies the make-up, powers, and duties of the board;
- (2) Creates the Professional Bail Bonds Board Fund within the state treasury for the deposit of fees collected under the provisions of the bill;
- (3) Assesses a \$10 fee to be paid by defendants on any bond written by a licensed bail bond agent in this state. Five dollars will be deposited into the board fund, \$2.50 will be deposited into the Legal Defense and Defender Fund, and \$2.50 will be payable to the county for the administration of the local circuit court;
- (4) Requires the board to notify general bail bond agents of bond forfeiture by facsimile or electronic mail within 48 hours of the forfeiture;
- (5) Requires the board to include the photograph of the bail bond agent on the license and requires the licensee to provide the board with the name, address, and phone number of all employers prior to receiving a license;
- (6) Authorizes bail bond agents operating in good standing with the board to write bail on behalf of a general bail bond agent in every municipal or circuit court in the state; and
- (7) Specifies that bail bond agents will have six months from the date of the order and judgment of forfeiture to return the defendant to custody of the court. Upon doing so, the court will vacate the forfeiture and exonerate the bond.