

HCS HB 316 -- LICENSURE OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

SPONSOR: Pike

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill changes the experience requirements for initial licensure as a psychologist. Under the new requirements, supervised professional experience may be accrued through preinternship, internship, predoctoral postinternship, or postdoctoral experiences. Each applicant must complete 1,500 hours of supervised professional experience as part of his or her required internship, along with an additional 2,000 hours through preinternship, predoctoral postinternship, internship, or postdoctoral experiences.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that when the current requirements were developed psychology students did not work many clinical hours prior to their internships but now students are working with patients in a supervised setting much earlier and more often. This bill would allow them to count hours they accrue prior to their internships or after their coursework but before officially completing their doctorates. This bill does not change the number of hours required for licensure, just when those hours can be completed.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pike; Adam Andreassen, Missouri Psychological Association; and David Lutz, Missouri Psychological Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say people also study the psychology of religion.

Testifying on the bill was Wayne Lee.

This bill is similar to SB 397 (2017).