

HCS HBs 480, 272, 413 & 609 -- PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

SPONSOR: Ross

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 8 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 5 to 4.

This bill establishes guidelines for the regulation of occupations and professions not currently regulated by the Division of Professional Registration, within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration, as well as guidelines for substantially increasing the scope of practice of currently regulated occupations and professions. The bill specifies that the state may not impose a substantial burden on an individual's pursuit of his or her occupation or profession unless there is an important governmental interest for the state to protect the general welfare. If an interest exists, the regulation adopted by the state must be substantially related to the public interest to be protected. All bills introduced in the General Assembly to regulate an occupation or profession for the first time or to substantially increase the scope of practice must be reviewed according to specified criteria (Section 324.001, RSMo).

For any new board or commission charged with regulating or licensing an occupation or profession, the bill specifies that those practitioners actively engaged in a newly regulated occupation or profession for at least one year prior to the effective date of the regulatory statute must have a property right in his or her continued legal ability to engage in his or her occupation or profession and specified due process rights. Any refusal of licensure by the board shall be in writing and any practitioner denied licensure shall then have the right to appeal the decision (Section 621.280).

This bill is similar to HB 272 (2017), HB 1466 (2016), and HB 634 (2015).

PROPONENTS: Supporters believe that occupational licensing is the most important issue in our state today. Requiring professional licenses raises the cost of living. Supporters believe that this bill would reduce the burdens placed on individuals trying to practice their professions.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Ross; Americans For Prosperity - Missouri; and Elizabeth Lauber.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.