

HCS HB 1574 -- COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE ARRANGEMENTS

SPONSOR: Rowland (155)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill allows a physician to enter into collaborative practice arrangements or supervision agreements with a total of six full-time equivalent advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) or physician assistant, in any combination thereof. Currently, a doctor can work with up to three APRNs and three physician assistants at a time.

This bill is the similar to HB 244 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will expand access to health care. Currently, 109 out of the 114 counties in Missouri have health care shortages. This will enable more APRNs to practice in areas that badly need more health care professionals.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Rowland; Missouri Association of Rural Health Clinics & BJC Healthcare; Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Health; SSM Health; Michelle Trupiano, Missouri Family Health Council; Missouri Hospital Association; Missouri Primary Care Association; Heidi Lucas, Missouri Nurses Association; Association of Missouri Nurse Practitioners; Christy Henley, Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Health; Leadingage Missouri; and Brad Ridenour, Missouri Coalition for Community Behavioral Health.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill were concerned with the original changes to the language regarding geographic proximity. Opponents believe that the further the collaborating physician is from the APRN, the less likely they are to be truly collaborating the care and treatment of patients. The role of the doctor in these arrangements is essential to providing effective health care so it is important that the doctor not become a token participant.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Association Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons; Missouri State Medical Association; Missouri Academy of Family Physicans; Missouri Society of Anesthesiologists; Missouri Dermatological Society; and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.