

HCS HB 1587 -- PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

SPONSOR: Helms

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

This bill prevents any political subdivision from adopting any new occupational fees or licensing requirements. A political subdivision cannot collect more than \$25 from one individual under any existing occupational fee requirement. The bill also prevents any political subdivision from imposing any licensing requirements for an occupation or profession already regulated by the state.

This bill requires all state and local licensing boards or entities to waive, for up to two years, any fees charged to obtain or renew occupational licenses for military families and low-income individuals.

This bill requires all licensing authorities to publish a list of criminal offenses for which the authority would deny licensure. To be included a criminal offense must directly relate to the duties and responsibilities of the licensed occupation or profession.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the government should be promoting the welfare of its citizens not interfering with their natural rights. Our current licensure system puts people through too many hoops in order to practice their professions. This bill would help people move into higher paying jobs. Supporters also said that the state should be setting the standard for licenses requirements; political subdivisions should not be using professional licenses to create revenue.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Helms and the Opportunity Solutions Project.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.