

HB 1896 -- PSYCHOLOGY COMPACT

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill adopts the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact in order to regulate the day to day practice of telepsychology by psychologists across state boundaries. The compact regulates psychological services using telecommunication technologies only, it does not apply to in-person, face-to-face practice by an out-of-state psychologist except to authorize the temporary in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology by psychologists across state boundaries for up to 30 days per calendar year.

The compact allows a psychologist in one compact state to practice, via telecommunication technologies, in another compact state without having to obtain a license in that other state. The compact requires each compact state to meet certain requirements before their licensees can practice in other compact states, including having a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints about licensees. The compact also establishes certain requirements for all psychologists practicing in accordance with the compact. Any psychologist practicing across state lines under this compact is still required to act within the scope of practice established by the state in which the services are taking place. The compact creates a joint public agency known as the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission. It is the commission that will promulgate rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and administration of the compact. The commission shall also create a coordinated database for licensure information and a reporting system for licensure and disciplinary action information for all licensed psychologists to whom the compact is applicable.

This compact only comes into effect when it has been adopted by seven states. Any compact state can withdraw from the compact by repealing these sections.

This bill is similar to SB 733 (2018).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will increase public access to psychology services via telepsychology across state line. This will increase access to care for underserved or geographically isolated populations.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swan and Paul Korte, Ph.D., Missouri Psychological Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.