

HB 2708 -- FUND BALANCES

SPONSOR: Lavender

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Budget by a vote of 16 to 10. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 12 to 1.

This bill changes the amount of funds that is required to revert to General Revenue at the end of each biennium for the following professional registration funds: Dental, Nursing, Healing Arts, Architects, Embalmers Funeral, Accountancy, and Pharmacy. A transfer to the General Revenue Fund can occur once such fund balance exceeds two times the average amount of expenses from the board's funds for the preceding three completed fiscal years.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that there is \$3.5 billion in these selected funds. This is constituents' money setting in these sweepable funds. Expenditures from the funds and fee revenues were considered in determining the amounts to sweep to the General Revenue Fund. The General Assembly needs to maintain oversight of all funds.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lavender and Mark Reading.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that these funds represent monies for specific entities and that maybe a review should be done to look at the balances by each entity. The specific entity could return fees to those who paid them or reduce fees in future, if need be. Sweeping the funds to General Revenue is the wrong way to reduce these funds. This is a penalty for efficiency.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Pharmacy Association; Missouri Dental Association; Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants; and the Missouri State Medical Association.