

HB 667 -- PHARMACIES

SPONSOR: Helms

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 9 to 2.

This bill modifies and establishes provisions relating to pharmacies.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG IMPORTATION FOR PERSONAL USE

This bill prohibits any state official or law enforcement officer from impeding or inhibiting a patient from importing a prescription drug for personal use, as long as the patient has a valid prescription (Section 195.422, RSMo).

OUT-OF-COUNTRY LICENSURE

This bill requires the Board of Pharmacy to allow a pharmacy located in another country to be licensed in Missouri if the pharmacy is licensed in its local jurisdiction under legal standards comparable to those that are required of a pharmacy in Missouri (Section 338.222).

The bill allows a pharmacy located in another country to submit any evidence required for licensure electronically, if practicable and if it would maintain the board's ability to uphold public health or safety of a patient (Section 338.240).

The bill clarifies that in order for a pharmacy located outside of the country to be licensed in Missouri, the pharmacy must comply with the drug laws of Missouri and of the United States (Section 338.250).

The bill allows the Board to send a licensure renewal notice electronically to a pharmacy located outside of the country. This bill specifies that a nonresident pharmacy license includes any pharmacy located outside the country (Section 338.270).

The bill allows a drug distributor, pharmacy, drug outsourcer, or third-party logistics provider located outside of the country to be licensed by reciprocity without meeting current reciprocity requirements, as long as it is licensed in its local jurisdiction under legal standards comparable to those required in Missouri (Section 338.333).

DRUG IMPORTATION

This bill states that a drug distributor, drug outsourcer, third-party logistics provider, or pharmacy possessing a valid license granted by another country under legal standards comparable to those required in Missouri meets Missouri licensure requirements for the purpose of allowing a pharmacist or pharmacy to purchase or receive a prescription drug from the drug distributor, drug outsourcer, third-party logistics provider, or pharmacy (Section 338.315).

The bill allows a drug distributor, pharmacy, drug outsourcer, or third party logistics provider located outside of the country to do business in the state of Missouri without a Missouri license, and to sell or distribute drugs in Missouri without a Missouri license, as long as it is licensed in its local jurisdiction under legal standards comparable to those required in Missouri (Sections 338.337 and 338.340).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will help combat the rising prices of prescription drugs. Drug manufacturers oftentimes charge more for drugs in the United States than they do in other countries for the exact same drug.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Helms.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the importation of drugs isn't always safe, which is why the FDA doesn't allow it. This bill would open Missouri up to counterfeit medicines that could harm patients.

Testifying against the bill were Sanofi US; Randy Scherr, PhRMA.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the Board of Pharmacy does currently license foreign drug providers.

Testifying on the bill was Kimberly Crinston, Missouri Board Of Pharmacy.