

HCS HB 1442 -- PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

SPONSOR: Helms

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 1.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1442.

PROHIBITED USES OF OCCUPATIONAL FEES

This bill prohibits any licensure board, commission, or committee within the Division of Professional Registration from using any occupational fees for the purpose of offering continuing education classes. The bill allows a board, commission, or committee to utilize occupational licensure fees for the purpose of attending or presenting in a conference for the purpose of communicating information to licensees with respect to changes in policy or law (Section 324.035, RSMo).

This provision is similar to HB 705 (2019).

PSYCHOLOGIST LICENSURE APPLICATIONS

The bill removes a provision that would prohibit the Committee on Psychologists from charging an application fee unless the application is approved (Section 337.020).

Current law outlines methods for a psychologist licensed in another jurisdiction to receive a license in Missouri. This bill removes the ability for a psychologist who is currently licensed in another jurisdiction that is a signatory to the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Board's reciprocity agreement to receive a license in Missouri. (Section 337.029).

These provisions are the same as SB 637 and SB 204 (2020).

PSYCHOLOGIST CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

The bill requires that a physiologist take at least three of their required 40 hours of continuing education in professional ethics training (Section 337.050).

This bill is the same as SCS SB 689 (2020).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that psychologists pay greater application fees for licensure in order to fund board-sponsored continuing education classes, but many licensees are not able to attend the classes or the classes are not helpful. The board does not have the authority under statute to use fees in this manner.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Helms; National Association of Social Workers; Dr. Paul Korte; and Chuck Hollister, Phd, Missouri Psychological Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill gave information on other boards that are currently offering continuing education classes and for what reason. They also gave information on the costs of licensure applications or renewals.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Division of Professional Registration.