

HB 2046 -- PROFESSIONAL LICENSE RECIPROCITY

SPONSOR: Grier

This bill makes changes to the existing professional licensure reciprocity statute, through which a person can become licensed in Missouri if they are licensed in another state.

The following individuals are currently excluded from the provisions of this section:

- (1) Those with a certificate of license to teach in public schools;
- (2) Those licensed by the Board of Registration for the Healing Arts;
- (3) Those licensed by the Board of Nursing;
- (4) Those licensed by the Board of Pharmacy;
- (5) Those licensed by the State Committee of Psychologists;
- (6) Those licensed by the Dental Board;
- (7) Those licensed by the Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors, and Professional Architects;
- (8) Those licensed by the Board of Optometry; and
- (9) Those licensed by the Veterinary Medical Board.

This bill removes these exclusions and requires that licensure by reciprocity for these professions be the same as any other licensed profession in this state.

The bill requires that an applicant for licensure by reciprocity have a license for at least one year in another state, territory, or the District of Columbia. The applicant must be licensed at the same practice level in the other state.

The bill removes the requirement that the other jurisdiction that issued the applicant's license must have substantially similar or more stringent requirements than the licensure requirements in Missouri. Instead, the bill requires that the other jurisdiction must have minimum education requirements and, if applicable, work experience and clinical supervision requirements. If licensure in Missouri requires an examination on the law of Missouri before

licensure, then an applicant can be required to take and pass an examination on the laws of Missouri before being granted a license by reciprocity.

The bill explicitly prevents licensure by reciprocity if an applicant has had his or her license revoked in another jurisdiction, is currently under investigation in another jurisdiction, or has a complaint pending in another jurisdiction. If another jurisdiction has previously taken disciplinary action against an applicant, the applicant cannot be granted a license by reciprocity until the matter was resolved in the other jurisdiction.

This bill removes a provision that would allow an applicant to be denied a license if granting a license by reciprocity would endanger the public health, safety, or welfare.

Any person who is granted a license by reciprocity is subject to all applicable rules and regulations.

An applicant for licensure by reciprocity can still be required to submit fingerprints in order to access criminal records for purposes not relating to criminal justice.

The provisions of licensure by reciprocity do not apply to a profession that has a licensing compact with another state. A license issued by reciprocity is valid only in Missouri and does not make a licensee eligible to be part of an interstate compact. A person who is licensed in another state by an interstate compact is not eligible for licensure by reciprocity.