

HCS HB 2046 -- PROFESSIONAL LICENSE RECIPROCITY (Grier)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Professional
Registration and Licensing

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 in statute from the provisions of this section: those with a certificate of license to teach in public schools; and those licensed by the Board of Registration for the Healing Arts, the Board of Nursing, the Board of Pharmacy, the State Committee of Psychologists, the Dental Board, the Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors, and Professional Architects, the Board of Optometry, and 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.

Currently, only a resident of Missouri is eligible to apply for a license by reciprocity, the bill allows any person to apply if the applicant for licensure by reciprocity has had 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, or if the applicant does not have a license in good standing in the other jurisdiction or has a criminal record that would disqualify the applicant in Missouri. If another jurisdiction has taken disciplinary action against an applicant, the oversight body must determine if the cause for the disciplinary action was corrected

and the matter resolved. The oversight body may deny a license by reciprocity until the matter is 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 as part of the application process.

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.