

HB 1284 -- SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT

SPONSOR: Ingle

This bill allows any person who holds a valid current social worker license issued by another state, a branch or unit of the military, a territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia, who has been licensed for at least one year in that location, to apply for a social worker license in Missouri. The state committee for social workers can waive any examination, educational requirements, or experience requirements for the licensure if the State committee for social workers determines that the applicant met the minimum education and work experience in the other territory. The State committee for social workers will not waive the requirements if:

- (1) The applicant had his or her license revoked by an oversight committee;
- (2) The applicant is currently under investigation;
- (3) The applicant has a complaint pending;
- (4) The applicant is currently under administrative disciplinary action;
- (5) The applicant does not hold a license in good standing with an oversight body outside of Missouri; or
- (6) The applicant has a criminal conviction that would disqualify him or her for licensure in Missouri.

This also bill adopts the "Social Work Licensure Compact". The Compact allows a social worker who meets the eligibility requirements to receive an expedited license. A social worker may renew his or her expedited license as a member of the Compact. The Compact establishes a confidential database of all social workers who have been granted an expedited license or who have applied for an expedited license, for the purpose of allowing member states to report disciplinary or investigatory information.

Member states may participate in joint investigations of social workers with other member states, and any disciplinary action taken by one member state may subject the social worker to discipline with other member states. If a social worker's license is revoked, surrendered, or relinquished in one state, the social worker's multistate authorization to practice in all other member states will be deactivated until all encumbrances have been removed from the multistate license.

The Compact establishes the "Social Work Licensure Compact Commission" to act as a corporate and joint agency of the member states and to oversee and maintain administration of the Compact.

The Compact outlines procedures for any member state that fails to perform its obligations of the Compact. The Compact will only be effective when seven states have enacted legislation to join the Compact.

The Compact outlines the procedure to withdraw from the Compact.

The Compact supersedes all other laws that conflict with provisions of the Compact.