

HCS HB 1509 -- LICENSED PROFESSIONS

SPONSOR: Murphy

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Government Accountability by a vote of 9 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 2.

This bill specifies that the General Assembly preempts any political subdivision, as defined in the bill, from enacting, maintaining, or enforcing any order, ordinance, rule, regulation, policy, or other similar measure that prohibits, restricts, limits, regulates, controls, directs, or interferes with the practice of professionals regulated under Chapters 331, 332, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, and 340, RSMo, which includes chiropractors, dentists, physicians, physician assistants, surgeons, nurses, anesthesiologist assistants, licensed therapists, respiratory care therapists, athletic trainers, optometrists, psychologists, professional counselors, social workers, pharmacists, and veterinarians.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 801 (2023).

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 local governments should refrain from interfering with the scope of practice of medical professionals. During the COVID-19 pandemic, some local governments attempted to restrict who could administer vaccinations, while others mandated the opposite. Supporters assert that local governments lack the expertise necessary to make such decisions. Supporters contend that as long as the scope of practice is regulated by state law, local governments should not intervene.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Murphy; Arnie C. Dienoff.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.