

HB 765 -- LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

SPONSOR: Stinnett

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 19 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 9 to 0.

Currently, a requirement for licensure for speech-language pathologists and audiologists is submitting evidence of completion of a clinical fellowship from supervisors. The period of employment must be under the direct supervision of a person who is licensed by the State of Missouri in the profession in which the applicant seeks to be licensed. This bill changes the period of employment to be under the direct supervision of a speech-language pathologist in good standing.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that we have a speech-language pathologist shortage in this state. We need to make sure we are doing everything we can to make it easier for more speech-language pathologists to come to Missouri from other states. This bill updates an outdated law preventing speech-language pathologists trained in other states from working in Missouri.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Stinnett; Brent Hemphill, Mo Speech Hearing Assn.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the Division of Professional Registration will work with the bill sponsor to make sure we are updating this statutory language the correct way.

Testifying in person on the bill was Wesley Sutton, Division of Professional Registration.

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.