

HCS SS SB 61 -- PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

SPONSOR: Brown (26)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 22 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for SB 61.

TEMPORARY LICENSES (SECTION 324.004)

Under this bill, any person who has at least three years of work experience in an occupation or profession in another state or the District of Columbia that does not use a license to regulate that occupation or profession can submit an application for a license in Missouri, with proof of experience and U.S. citizenship, to the relevant oversight body. Within 45 days of receiving the application, the oversight body must make a determination of qualification. The oversight body will require an applicant to take and pass a profession-specific examination and can require an examination specific to Missouri laws.

A license issued under this bill will be a one-time, nonrenewable, two-year temporary license. If the applicant is not residing in Missouri, the oversight body must conditionally approve the application. If an applicant fails to provide proof of domicile in Missouri within 90 days of receipt of the temporary license, the oversight board can terminate the temporary license and the applicant can reapply for the temporary license.

Upon expiration of the temporary license, individuals will be required to apply for a permanent license, consistent with the licensure and application requirements of that license as set forth in statute and rule. A license issued under this bill will not be qualified for reciprocity with another state or as part of an interstate compact. The provisions of this bill will not apply to certain specified professions detailed in the bill.

This section is similar to HB 478 (2025) and similar to provisions in SB 817 (2024), and HCS SS#2 SCS SB 88 (2023).

LICENSE WAIVERS FOR SPOUSES OF MISSOURI LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (SECTION 324.009)

Current law requires an oversight body for professional licenses to waive any examination, educational, or experience requirements within 30 days for a resident military spouse or a nonresident

military spouse and must issue such applicant a license if the applicant meets all other requirements. This bill provides such waiver to resident and nonresident spouses of Missouri law enforcement officers, as such term is defined in the bill. Additionally, this bill repeals provisions relating to the application to oversight bodies that have entered into licensing compacts.

This section is similar to provisions in HCS HB 268 (2025), HB 478 (2025), HCS HB 946 (2025), and SB 283 (2025).

LICENSE RECIPROCITY (Section 324.009)

This bill adds language to Missouri's current license reciprocity law stating the Missouri board for architects, professional engineers, professional land surveyors and professional landscape architects can deny an application for licensure, registration, or certification, or decline to grant a temporary or probationary license, if the board determines the applicant's qualifications are not substantially equivalent to those established by the board.

DENTAL PROFESSIONALS (Sections 332.211, 332.281, 332.700, 332.705, 332.710, 332.715, 332.720, 332.725, 332.730, 332.735, 332.740, 332.745, 332.750, 332.755, and 332.760)

Currently, the Missouri Dental Board can grant, without an examination, a certificate of registration and a license to a dentist or a dental hygienist who has been licensed in another state if the Board is satisfied that the applicant's qualifications are equivalent to or higher than requirements in Missouri. A dentist must have been licensed for five consecutive years immediately preceding his or her application and a dental hygienist must have been licensed for two consecutive years immediately preceding his or her application.

The Missouri Dental Board can, by rule, require the applicant to take any examination over Missouri laws that is given to dentists or dental hygienists in Missouri when he or she applies for licensure. If the applicant's licensure in any state was ever denied, revoked, or suspended for incompetency or inability to practice in a safe manner, the Dental Board can require that the applicant take a practical examination. The Dental Board can also require the applicant take a practical examination if he or she has failed any practical examination given as a prerequisite to licensure as a dentist in any state.

The bill repeals outdated license reciprocity language and replaces it with new language in accordance with Statute 324.009, RSMo.

This bill also creates the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. Dentists and dental hygienists licensed in a state that are participating in the Interstate Compact can practice in other participating states without additional requirements. The bill also enhances the ability of participating states to protect the public health and safety and cooperate in regulating the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene.

The bill specifies the conditions for a state to join and continue as a participating state, such as enacting a compact that is not materially different from the model compact, implementing a criminal background check requirement, accepting certain examinations and accreditations, and paying a participation fee to the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact Commission.

The bill also defines the qualifications and obligations of a licensee who seeks to obtain and exercise a compact privilege in a remote state, such as having a qualifying license, meeting any jurisprudence requirement, reporting any adverse action, and complying with the scope of practice of the remote state.

The bill establishes the "Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact Commission", composed of one commissioner from each participating state, to administer and enforce the Compact. The Commission will have the power to adopt rules and bylaws, maintain a data system, charge fees, conduct investigations, take disciplinary actions, issue subpoenas, and initiate legal proceedings. The bill also outlines the procedures and standards for the Commission's meetings, financial review, executive board, and annual report.

These sections are the same as HB 56 (2025).

FUNERAL-RELATED SERVICES (Sections 333.041 and 333.042)

The bill provides that a practicum embalming student licensee can assist, under the direct supervision of a licensed embalmer in a licensed funeral establishment, after approval by the State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors (Board), with the Division of Professional Registration, but must not assist when not under such supervision.

This bill repeals the current requirements to become a licensed embalmer and replaces them with new requirements.

In the bill, an applicant for an embalmer license must provide evidence to the Board that he or she:

- (1) Is eighteen years of age or older;

(2) Possesses a high school diploma, a general equivalency diploma, or equivalent, as determined, at its discretion, by the Board;

(3) Has completed a funeral service education program accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education, any successor organization, or other accrediting entity, as approved by the Board;

(4) Received passing scores on the National Board Examination-Sciences and the Missouri law examination administered by the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, any successor organization, or other organization approved by the Board; and

(5) Has been employed in a qualifying embalmer's apprentice program for six months and has personally embalmed at least 25 dead human bodies under the supervision of a licensed embalmer. The first 12 embalmings must be conducted under the direct supervision of the licensed embalmer.

Upon written request to the Board, any person licensed under this section can, at his or her election, sit for the National Board Examination-Arts administered by the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, any successor organization, or other organization approved by the Board.

Currently, if an applicant does not complete all requirements for licensure within five years from the date of his or her completion of an accredited program, his or her registration as an apprentice embalmer is automatically canceled. The applicant is required to file a new application and pay applicable fees. The applicant cannot use the previous apprenticeship for the new application. This bill repeals that provision.

The bill adds the requirement to pass the Missouri law examination in order to become a licensed embalmer.

Currently, if any applicant fails to pass the national board examination of the Conference of Funeral Service Examining, he or she may retake the examination at the next regular examination meeting. The applicant must notify the Board office of his or her desire to retake the examination at least 30 days prior to the date of the examination. Each time the examination is retaken, the applicant must pay a new examination fee in an amount established by the Board. This bill removes the 30 day requirement and specifies that the examination is the National Board ExaminationArts. The bill repeals a provision requiring the Board to hold the examinations at least twice a year.

This bill repeals the current requirements to become a licensed funeral director and replaces them with new requirements.

In the bill, an applicant for a funeral director license must provide evidence to the Board that he or she is 18 years of age or older and possesses a high school diploma or the equivalent thereof and has either:

(1) Completed a funeral service education program accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education, any successor organization, or other accrediting entity as approved by the Board and received passing scores on the National Board Examination-Arts and the Missouri law examination. The Board can accept, in lieu of a passing score on the National Board Examination-Arts, a passing score on an administration of the Missouri arts examination that occurred before the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards ended all administrations of the Missouri arts examination on January 1, 2023; or

(2) Made application for a funeral director provisional license and successfully either:

(a) Within 24 months of receipt of the provisional license:

(i) Completed a 12 month qualifying funeral director apprentice program as determined by the Board during which the applicant arranged and conducted 10 funeral services. The program must be under the personal supervision of a licensed funeral director in a Missouri funeral establishment licensed for the care and preparation for burial and transportation of the human dead in this State; and

(ii) Received passing scores on the National Board Examination-Arts and the Missouri law examination. The Board can accept, in lieu of a passing score on the National Board Examination-Arts, a passing score on an administration of the Missouri arts examination that occurred before the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards ended all administrations of the Missouri arts examination on January 1, 2023; or

(b) Within 36 months of receipt of the provisional license:

(i) Completed an 18 month qualifying funeral director apprentice program as determined by the Board during which the applicant arranged and conducted 25 funeral services. The program must be under the personal supervision of a licensed funeral director in a Missouri funeral establishment licensed for the care and

preparation for burial and transportation of the human dead in this state; and

(ii) Received a passing score on the Missouri law examination.

Any person holding a provisional license will be eligible, upon written request to the Board, to sit for the National Board Examination-Arts and the Missouri law examination at any time during the period in which his or her provisional license is effective.

Any licensed funeral director who has not previously sat for the National Board Examination-Arts can, at his or her election and upon written request to the Board, sit for the examination. A person can apply for a limited license to work only in a funeral establishment licensed for cremation.

A person holding a limited funeral director license can perform duties related to cremation. To qualify for a limited funeral director license, an applicant must be 18 years of age or older and successfully complete the Missouri law examination. Completion of a qualifying funeral director apprentice program will not be required to obtain a limited funeral director license.

Currently, the Board must, upon request, waive any requirement to become a licensed funeral director and issue a temporary funeral director's license, valid for six months, to the surviving spouse or next of kin or the personal representative of a licensed funeral director, or to the spouse, next of kin, employee or conservator of a licensed funeral director disabled because of sickness, mental incapacity or injury. This bill adds that the waiver can allow the spouse, next of kin, personal representative, or conservator of the absent director to conduct business until a licensed funeral director can be obtained or business arrangements are made to close or sell the establishment. The waiver does not allow for any services to be provided for which formal funeral service education is required.

These sections are the same as HB 834 (2025).

PHYSICIAN LICENSURE (SECTION 334.031)

This bill requires a candidate applying for licensure as a physician to submit to a criminal background check and furnish certain educational and experience documents. This bill also allows the Board of Registration for the Healing Arts (Board) to require applicants to list all licenses to practice as a physician currently or previously held in another state, territory, or country and to disclose any past or pending investigations,

discipline, or sanctions for such licenses. The Board can also obtain a report on the applicant from the National Practitioner Data Bank or the Federation of State Medical Boards.

This section is similar to provisions in SCS SB 292 (2025), SB 1030 (2024), HB 2753 (2024), and HB 1279 (2023).

ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN VACCINES (Section 338.010)

This bill provides that the practice of pharmacy must include the ordering and administering of vaccines, except for the vaccine for chikungunya and those vaccines approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration after January 1, 2025, instead of those after January 1, 2023.

This section is the same as HCS HB 943 (2025), SB 548 (2025), SCS SB 317 (2025), SB 1455 (2024), SCS HB 2280 (2024), and HB 2879 (2024).

RX CARES FOR MISSOURI PROGRAM (Section 338.710)

This bill removes the expiration date of August 28, 2026, from the RX Cares for Missouri Program.

This section is the same as HB 1445 (2025).

DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS (Section 338.333)

Currently, no person or outlet can act as a wholesale drug distributor, pharmacy distributor, drug outsourcer, or third-party logistics provider without obtaining a license from the Missouri Board of Pharmacy. Temporary licenses can be granted while an application is being processed. Separate licenses are required for each distribution site.

The Board can permit out-of-state entities to be licensed in Missouri if they possess a valid license from another state with comparable standards and if the other state offers reciprocal treatment to Missouri entities.

This bill provides that if a state license is not issued by the out-of-state wholesale drug distributor's resident state, out-of-state wholesale drug distributors and third-party logistics providers with a current and valid drug distributor accreditation from the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy or its successor may be eligible for the license.

This section is the same as HB 1465 (2025).

REAL ESTATE BROKERS (Section 339.150)

Currently, no real estate broker can pay compensation directly to a business entity owned by a licensee that has been formed for the purpose of receiving compensation earned by such licensee. A business entity that receives compensation from a broker as provided for in this subsection will not be required to be licensed under this chapter and must be owned:

- (1) Solely by the licensee;
- (2) By the licensee together with the licensee's spouse, but only if the spouse and licensee are both licensed and associated with the same broker, or the spouse is not also licensed; or
- (3) By the licensee and one or more other licensees, but only if all such owners are licensees which are associated with the same broker.

The definition of "Licensee" in this section is any real estate broker-salesperson or real estate salesperson, as such terms are defined under section 339.010.

This bill adds real estate broker to the definition of licensee.

BROKERAGE SERVICES (Section 339.780)

This bill requires a real estate broker acting as a single agent for a buyer or tenant to enter into a written agency agreement with the buyer or tenant before engaging in any acts enumerating in section 339.010. Currently, a broker is allowed to enter into such a written agency agreement while already engaging in such acts.

This section is the same as HB 596 (2025).

CLINICAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS (SECTION 345.050)

This bill modifies the requirements for licensure as a speech pathologist or audiologist by providing for completion of a clinical fellowship under the direct supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist in good standing, rather than under the direct supervision of a person licensed by the state of Missouri in the profession in which the applicant seeks to be licensed.

This section is the same as HCS SS SB 7 (2025), HCS HB 268 (2025), SB 431 (2025), HB 478 (2025), HB 765 (2025), and SCS HB 834 (2025).

APPLICATION OF THE MONEY TRANSMISSION MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2024 TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS (SECTION 361.909)

The Money Transmission Modernization Act of 2024 will not apply to any person appointed as an agent of payor for payroll processing services who would otherwise need to be licensed by the Director of the Division of Finance within the Department of Commerce and Insurance, if certain conditions specified in the bill apply.

This section is similar to HB 707 (2025) and SCS HB 754 (2025).

SEWAGE DISPOSAL (Sections 701.040 and 701.046)

Currently, a State standard for the location, size of sewage tanks, and length of lateral lines is based partially on the percolation or permeability rate of the soil, as well as other specified factors. This bill modifies this provision to state that the standard is based partially on soil properties.

Currently, soil tests are to be performed by persons who are qualified to perform the percolation tests. This bill instead authorizes on-site soil evaluators registered by the Department of Health and Senior Services to conduct soil morphology evaluations. The bill repeals a provision allowing contractors to be taught and perform percolation tests.

The bill creates a mandatory registration program requiring continuing education until January 1, 2026, for on-site wastewater treatment system professionals qualified to perform percolation tests in accordance with the State standard. The administrative authority can accept a percolation test at its own discretion until January 1, 2026, if a soil morphology evaluation cannot be reasonably obtained.

Any person who intends to construct or make major modifications or repairs to an on-site sewage disposal system must submit an application fee and obtain a construction permit. This bill repeals the provision stating that the fee for on-site sewage modification and repair can be no greater than necessary to cover the cost to implement the State standard for on-site sewage disposal systems and the registration of contractors.

Currently, the Department must establish the fee for on-site sewage disposal system modification and repair by rule at an amount no greater than \$90 and can charge an additional fee as necessary to cover the expenses of training contractors to perform the percolation tests. The bill allows that the Department instead can promulgate regulations establishing the conditions and requirements for the construction permit application including the collection of

reasonable fees set at a level to produce revenue not exceeding the cost and expense of administering the program.

These sections are the same as HB 200(2025).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the Senate Perfected version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that Missouri has a worker shortage and this bill would allow people from other states to start working in Missouri easier. This bill also fixes a current issue with companies that process payments.

Testifying in person for the bill were Senator Brown; FGA Action; Missouri Speech-Language Hearing Association; and Independent Payroll Providers.

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.