

HB 3111 -- PROFESSIONAL BAIL BONDSMAN AND SURETY RECOVERY AGENT
LICENSURE ACT

SPONSOR: Phelps

Currently, bail bondsmen are regulated by the Department of Commerce and Insurance (DCI). This bill creates the "Board of Professional Surety Bail Bond Agents" under the Division of Professional Registration within DCI to regulate bail bondsmen. All of the current regulatory requirements for bail bondsmen will remain the same, but the Board will be the new regulating entity.

The Board will be composed of seven members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Three members must have been actively engaged in the general bail bond business for the five years immediately preceding their appointment, one member must be a member of the judiciary, one member must be a law enforcement officer, and two members must be licensed bail bond or surety recovery agents. Each member of the board must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of this state for at least one year, and a registered voter. No more than one private bail bond Board member can be employed by, or affiliated with, the same bail bond agency or business organization. Term limits for the Board members are outlined in the bill.

The members of the Board can receive compensation, as determined by the director of DCI for their services, if appropriate, and will be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing their official duties on the Board.

The bill creates the "Board of Professional Surety Bail Bond Agents Fund", which will be used to fund the regulation of bail bondsmen.