

HB 1816 -- LICENSURE OF PHYSICIANS

SPONSOR: Koenig

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 17 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on General Laws by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill prohibits the state from requiring any form of maintenance of licensure as a condition of physician licensure. Current requirements including continuous medical education must suffice to demonstrate professional competency. The state must not require any form of specialty medical board certification or any maintenance of certification to practice medicine in this state. The state board or any other state agency must not discriminate against physicians who do not maintain specialty medical board certification including recertification.

This bill is similar to SCS HCS HB Nos. 671 & 683 (2015).

PROPOSERS: The law does not currently require physicians to be board certified in their specialty. This bill prevents the state from requiring such certification in the future. Approximately one quarter of Missouri physicians are not currently board certified. To require such a certification would be unduly burdensome and could lead to doctors leaving the state to practice in less restrictive locals.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Koenig, Wes Powell; Missouri State Medical Association; Missouri Academy of Family Physicians; MO Association of Osteopathic Physician; and Jennifer Powell.