

HCS HB 955 -- DIETITIANS

SPONSOR: Behnen (Portwood)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 14 to 0.

This substitute modifies certain provisions relating to the licensing of dietitians. The substitute:

- (1) Establishes the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education of the American Dietetic Association as the accrediting body for persons wishing to become licensed dietitians in this state;
- (2) Creates definitions for "dietetic practice," "dietitian," "licensed dietitian," "medical nutrition therapy," and "registered dietitian";
- (3) Places the State Committee of Dietitians within the Division of Professional Registration;
- (4) Authorizes the committee to assist the division in carrying out the provisions of the Dietitians Practice Act;
- (5) Requires the committee to approve the licensing examination;
- (6) Prohibits persons from using the title or holding themselves out as licensed dietitians unless duly licensed by the committee;
- (7) Exempts from licensure certain persons that do not hold themselves out as being licensed dietitians; and
- (8) Contains provisions regarding lapsed and inactive licenses.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund. Estimated Net Income on Other State Funds of \$86,850 in FY 2005, \$2,606 in FY 2006, and \$92,100 in FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill defines the term "dietitian." Currently, anyone can call themselves a dietitian. The bill will protect licensed dietitians and make them eligible for Medicare reimbursement.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Portwood; Missouri Dietetic Association; and Ginger Meyer.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Bob Dominique, Legislative Analyst