

HB 2226 -- MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

SPONSOR: Wasson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill changes the laws regarding marital and family therapists. The State Committee of Marital and Family Therapists within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration is authorized to issue a provisional license to a person who is a graduate of a specified acceptable higher education institution with at least a master's degree in marital and family therapy, or its equivalent, and meets all requirements of a licensed marital and family therapist other than the specified required supervised clinical experience if he or she is supervised by a qualified person as defined by rule of the Division of Professional Registration.

Any official, employee, board, commission, or agency of the state and any county, municipality, school district, or other political subdivision of the state is prohibited from discriminating between persons licensed as marital and family therapists when establishing rules or when requiring or recommending services that legally may be performed by these therapists.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is needed to allow certain qualified persons to receive a provisional license as a marital and family therapist as other similar professionals are allowed.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wasson; and Missouri Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the bill makes the laws regarding marital and family therapists consistent with other similar professionals as they apply to provisional licenses and discrimination policies.

Testifying on the bill was State Committee of Marital and Family Therapists, Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration.