

SB 234 -- MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

SPONSOR: Wasson (Burlison)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 20 to 0.

This bill requires each applicant for licensure or provisional licensure as a marital and family therapist to provide evidence to the State Committee of Psychologists in the Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration that the applicant has a master's or doctoral degree in marital and family therapy from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, or its equivalent as defined by committee regulation, from an educational institution accredited by a regional accrediting body that is recognized by the United States Department of Education. Currently, the applicant must furnish evidence that he or she has a master's or doctoral degree in marital and family therapy or its equivalent as defined by committee regulation from an acceptable educational institution accredited by a regional accrediting body or accredited by an accrediting body that has been approved by the United States Department of Education.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill brings our statutes regarding accreditation of marital and family therapists into compliance with federal guidelines.

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

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.