

CCS#2 HCS SB 330 -- PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

This bill changes the laws regarding members of the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, dental assistants, collaborative practice agreements, hearing instrument specialists, and adoption investigations.

STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

Currently, a member of the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration cannot be held personally liable for any act committed in the performance of his or her official duties except gross negligence. The bill repeals the gross negligence exception.

DENTAL ASSISTANTS

A dental assistant, certified dental assistant, or expanded functions dental assistant is allowed to place pit or fissure sealants and apply topical fluoride to patients if he or she is under the direct supervision of a registered and licensed dentist.

COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE AGREEMENTS

Currently, a collaborative practice arrangement must include a provision on how the collaborating physician and advanced practice registered nurse will maintain geographic proximity. The bill allows geographic proximity to be waived for up to 28 days per year as long as the arrangement includes specified alternative plans in order for the advanced practice registered nurse to provide care at an independent rural health clinic or a provider-based rural health clinic where the provider is a critical access hospital as provided in federal regulations or where the main location of the hospital sponsor is more than 50 miles from the clinic. The collaborating physician must maintain documentation related to this requirement and present it to the State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts when requested.

HEARING INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS

The bill:

- (1) Changes the minimum age requirement for licensure as a hearing instrument specialist from 21 to 18 years of age;
- (2) Requires an applicant for a hearing instrument specialist license or a hearing instrument specialist-in-training permit to hold an associate's degree or higher in hearing instrument sciences

from a state or regionally accredited higher education institution, hold an associate's degree or higher from a state or regionally accredited higher education instruction and submit proof of completion of a specified course or program, or hold a master's or doctoral degree in audiology from a state or regionally accredited institution;

(3) Allows a person holding a current, unsuspended, and unrevoked license from another jurisdiction to receive a license if the standards for licensing are substantially equivalent to or exceed those required by the Board of Examiners for Hearing Instrument Specialists within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration or if he or she has been actively practicing as a licensed hearing aid fitter or dispenser for at least 48 of the last 72 months and submits proof of completion of advance certification from the International Hearing Society or the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences. The provisions allowing a person holding a license from another state or jurisdiction to receive a Missouri license through a reciprocal agreement are repealed; and

(4) Requires the board to establish reasonable standards and rules for the evaluation of an applicant for the purpose of determining the course of instruction and training required of each applicant under the licensing requirements.

ADOPTION INVESTIGATIONS

A professional counselor, a licensed psychologist who is associated with a licensed child-placement agency, and any social worker are added to the list of persons authorized to conduct a full investigation into whether an individual is suitable as an adoptive parent for a child.