

HB 2099 -- COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

SPONSOR: Franklin

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Standing Committee on Emerging Issues in Health Care by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill establishes the Joint Interim Committee on Health Care Workforce Development to be composed of 12 members. Six members must be from the Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate, with two members of the minority party appointed with the advice of the Minority Leader of the Senate. Six members must be from the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, with two members of the minority party appointed with the advice of the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives. Members of the committee must receive no compensation but may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses associated with the performance of their official duties.

The committee must study the following:

- (1) Missouri's present and future health care workforce shortages, if any;
- (2) The ability of the current health care workforce to meet the health care needs of Missouri citizens;
- (3) The number of students currently enrolled in medical schools, nursing schools, or other schools for health care professionals in the state;
- (4) Historical data of the number of students who attended a medical school, nursing school, or other school for health care professionals in Missouri who stayed in the state after achieving a degree and the number of students who left the state;
- (5) Methods to encourage the retention and recruitment of physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals in and to Missouri; and
- (6) Any other issues the committee deems relevant to health care workforce development in the state.

The committee may hold hearings as it deems advisable and may obtain any input or information necessary to fulfill its obligations. The committee may consult with any state department; public or private university, college, or school; private citizens; or any other person or organization it deems necessary to fulfill its obligations. The committee must submit a report to the General

Assembly by December 31, 2014, containing the findings of the committee and any recommendations of the committee for attracting and maintaining a strong health care workforce in the state. These provisions will expire on January 1, 2015.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that there is currently a shortage of health care providers in Missouri and due to the aging population this shortage will only increase. The General Assembly needs to take action to ensure the health care needs of Missouri citizens are met today and in the future. This interim committee will allow the General Assembly to better assess the current state of Missouri's health care workforce and will provide greater insight into weaknesses and necessary improvements.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Franklin.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.