

HB 1619 -- LIABILITY MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

SPONSOR: McCaherty

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Civil and Criminal Proceedings by a vote of 8 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill establishes a two-year statute of limitations for actions against a licensed mental health professional for damages for malpractice, negligence, error, or mistake related to health care.

This bill is the same as HB 108 (2015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say this bill simply adds mental health professionals to our current statutes for purposes of statutes of limitations. Prior to 1986, mental health professionals were not recognized under the relevant chapter, and because they have no applicable statute of limitations, when these individuals retire they must retain their records and malpractice insurance indefinitely.

Testifying for the bill were Representative McCaherty; Missouri Psychological Association; National Association Of Social Workers; and Missouri Mental Health Counselors Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.