

HB 2328 -- PHYSICAL THERAPY LICENSURE COMPACT

SPONSOR: Davis

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 14 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on General Laws by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill establishes this state as a member of a compact to facilitate the interstate practice of physical therapy. The primary purpose of the compact is to preserve the regulatory authority of states to protect public health and safety through the current system of state licensure. The compact will become effective after it has been approved by 10 member states.

The bill outlines specific requirements that a state must complete in order to participate in the compact and that a licensee must adhere to in order to exercise privileges thereunder.

In order to facilitate and coordinate implementation and administration of the compact, the bill establishes the Physical Therapy Compact Commission. The commission shall:

- (1) Promulgate uniform rules, having the force and effect of laws, to be binding in all member states;
- (2) Be comprised of one delegate from each of the member states, to be selected by the state's licensing board;
- (3) Conduct meetings that are open to the public, except under specific circumstances;
- (4) Pay the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization and ongoing activities; and
- (5) Provide for the development, maintenance, and utilization of a coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action and investigative information on all licensed individuals in member states.

Any member state may withdraw from the compact at any time by enacting a statute repealing the compact. Such withdrawal shall take effect six months after the enactment of the repealing statute. In addition to the voluntary removal of a member state, the commission may make a determination that a member state has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under the compact. If the state fails to cure the default, a majority of the member states may vote to remove the state from the

compact.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the licensure compact improves licensure portability and streamlines the approval process for practicing in a new state of residence. This bill would be of great benefit to military spouses who can move as often as every six months. It would also allow physical therapists working for large health systems to practice across state lines. This bill would not effect the scope of practice for physical therapists in Missouri.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Davis; Leslie Adrian, Federation Of State Boards Of Physical Therapy; and Jennifer Schnieders, Missouri Physical Therapy Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.