

HB 1629 -- PSYCHOLOGIST LICENSURE

SPONSOR: Evans

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill provides that a doctoral degree in psychology from a program accredited, or provisionally accredited, by the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System is acceptable to meet various requirements for licensure as a psychologist if the program meets certain requirements as described in the bill.

This bill is similar to SB 366 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill allows the state to license psychologists who have gone to schools accredited by the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS). There are currently 35 programs across the country that are recognized by PCSAS but until states recognize PCSAS for licensure purposes those programs also have to be accredited by the American Psychological Association. The PCSAS is an accepted accreditation program within the industry and there is no reason for the state not to recognize it.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Evans and Thomas Oltmanns, Washington University.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.