

HB 2233 -- ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE

SPONSOR: Ross

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill makes an exception to the geographic proximity requirement for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) in collaborative practice agreements by waiving the requirement for APRNs working in certified community behavioral health clinics. The bill also allows a physician to enter into collaborative practice arrangements or supervision agreements with up to six APRNs or physician assistants, or any combination thereof. Currently, the law restricts physicians from entering into collaborative practice arrangements with more than three APRNs and three physician assistants.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that there are currently more people seeking mental health treatment than there are available providers. This is a big issue with addiction treatment in particular. It is important that individuals with mental health or addiction issues get treatment before they wind up in the ER or possibly prison. This bill would allow more APRNs to practice in the areas that need providers the most.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Ross; Missouri Nurses Association; Marcia K Flesner; Association of Missouri Nurse Practitioners; and SSM Health.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill had concerns about the language in the introduced bill that allowed collaborating physicians to enter into arrangements with up to five APRNs. They recommended the changes that were made via amendment to allow for a total of six APRNs or physician assistants.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri State Medical Association.