

HCS HB 301 -- ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES

SPONSOR: Schroer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 6 to 0.

This bill requires advanced practice nurses (APRNs) be licensed by the Missouri Board of Nursing and sets out the requirements for that licensure. An applicant for APRN licensure must have a current registered professional nurse license, have completed an accredited APRN program, and be certified by a national certifying body.

Any person who currently has a document of recognition to practice as an APRN that is current on August 28, 2019 will be deemed to be licensed as an APRN under the provisions in the bill.

The bill states that a licensee's APRN license and his or her professional nursing license shall be treated as one license for the purpose of renewal and fees.

The bill allows an APRN to renew his or her license.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 1502 (2018).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will allow the Board of Nursing to give APRNs a separate licensure, instead of just a document of recognition, which will allow the board to have better oversight and discipline for APRNs. This bill will streamline and simplify APRN licensure.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schroer; Tammy Bartholomew, Barnes Jewish Christian Medical Group of Sullivan; Missouri Health Care Association; SSM Health Care; Missouri Nurses Association; Missouri Hospital Association; LeadingAge Missouri; Association of Missouri Nurse Practitioners; Douglas Pogue, Barnes Jewish Christian Medical Group; Dawn Pfeffer Wright, Barnes Jewish Christian Hospital; Kids Win Missouri; Missouri Association of Rural Health Clinics; and Saint Luke's Health System.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that licensure for APRNs should be under the Board of Healing Arts instead of the Board of Nursing because APRNs have a similar scope of practice to physicians and physician assistants, which are both under the Board of Healing Arts.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri State Medical Association; Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons; Missouri Society of Anesthesiologists; and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill discussed the current licensure and discipline procedure for APRNs, including an explanation of how the APRN certificate is currently tied to an RN license.

Testifying on the bill was Lori Scheidt, Missouri State Board Of Nursing.