

HB 470 -- APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

SPONSOR: Grier

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Development by a vote of 12 to 2. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill creates the "Expanded Workforce Access Act of 2019." Beginning January 1, 2020, licensing authorities are required to grant a license to any applicant that has completed the 8th grade, completed a federally-approved apprenticeship program, and passed any necessary examination. The passing score for any examination cannot be higher than the passing score required for any non-apprenticeship license, and there cannot be an examination required for an apprenticeship license if there isn't one required for a non-apprenticeship license.

For some types of apprenticeships, the number of working hours required cannot be more than the number of educational hours required for a non-apprenticeship license.

This bill is similar to HB 472 (2019).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the goal is to expand alternative paths to licensure through apprenticeship programs and reduce barriers to professional licensing.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Grier; Opportunity Solutions Project; and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they would like some further clarification to know whether it will weaken the current trade programs.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri AFL-CIO.