

HCS SB 204 -- PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

SPONSOR: Riddle (Ross)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE ARRANGEMENTS

This bill standardizes language regarding physician assistant supervision agreements to be consistent with advanced practice registered nurse collaborative practice arrangements.

These provisions are the same as HCS HB 840 (2019).

PROFESSIONAL LICENSING RECIPROCITY

Currently, any resident of Missouri who holds a valid current license issued by another jurisdiction is allowed to submit an application for a license in Missouri in the same occupation or profession for which such person holds the current license, along with proof of current licensure in the other jurisdiction, to the relevant oversight body in this state.

This bill allows any nonresident military spouse to apply for a license in Missouri, provided he or she also submits proof of current licensure in any jurisdiction and any required application fee.

Currently, the oversight body is required to waive any examination, educational, or experience requirements for licensure for the applicant within six months of receiving an application, if it determines that the licensing requirements in the jurisdiction that issued the applicant's license are substantially similar to or more stringent than Missouri's licensing requirements. This bill changes the time line to 90 days.

Currently, the law shall be interpreted so as to imply no conflict between it and any compact, or reciprocity agreement with other states in effect on August 28, 2018. This bill specifies that should any conflict arise between the reciprocity section and the provisions of any compact or reciprocity agreement, the provisions of such compact or agreement shall prevail.

This bill specifies that a nonresident military spouse is eligible, under this bill, to apply for a license with any board, department, agency, or office of a jurisdiction that issues licenses.

This bill repeals the provisions relating to the issuance of a temporary courtesy license to a nonresident spouse of an active duty member of the military.

This provision is similar to HB 1140 and SB 476 (2019).

#### EXPANDED WORKFORCE ACCESS ACT

These provisions shall be known as the "Expanded Workforce Access Act of 2019."

Beginning on January 1, 2020, each state licensing authority shall grant a license to any applicant who has successfully completed the eighth grade, completed an apprenticeship approved by the appropriate licensing authority or the U.S. Department of Labor, and has passed the required licensure examination, if one is deemed to be necessary under state law.

The division shall establish a passing score for such examinations, which shall not exceed the passing score that is required for a non-apprenticeship license. If there is no examination requirement for a non-apprenticeship license, no examination shall be required for applicants who complete an apprenticeship.

The number of working hours required for an apprenticeship shall not exceed the number of educational hours otherwise required for a non-apprenticeship license.

This bill is the same as SCS HB 470 (2019), and similar to SB 318, and HB 472 (2019).

#### PROHIBITED USES OF OCCUPATIONAL FEES

This bill prohibits any licensure board, commission, or committee within the Division of Professional Registration from using any occupational fees for the purpose of offering continuing education classes.

This provision is the same as a provision of HB 705 (2019).

#### COSMETOLOGISTS

Currently, 1500 hours of training are required for cosmetologists. This bill requires at least 1000 hours training for the classification of hairdresser, and 400 of those hours can be applied toward the classification of cosmetologist. Currently, 750 hours of training are required for the classification of esthetician; this bill allows 500 of those hours to apply toward

the classification of cosmetologist.

This provision is the same as a provision of HB 472 (2019).

#### PLUMBERS

Currently, applicants for a master plumber license are required to be at least 25 years old, applicants for a journeyman plumber license are required to be at least 21 years old, and applicants for a master drainlayer license are required to be at least 25 years old. This bill removes these age requirements.

This provision is the same as a provision of HB 472 (2019).

#### EMBALMING APPRENTICESHIPS

This bill allows an embalming apprentice to continue to be employed by the funeral establishment where the apprenticeship took place, for up to six months after the apprentice has completed the apprenticeship program but has not yet completed the examination or other requirements of licensure. An embalming apprentice must provide written notice to the board to extend his or her apprenticeship registration.

This provision is the same as HB 816 (2019).

#### PHYSICAL THERAPIST SCOPE OF PRACTICE

This bill changes the laws regarding physical therapists so that physical therapists who have a doctorate of physical therapy degree or who have completed five years of clinical practice no longer need a prescription or referral from a doctor in order to treat a patient. Instead, a physical therapist is required to refer to an approved health care provider any patient whose condition is beyond the physical therapist's scope of practice, or any patient who does not demonstrate measurable or functional improvement after 10 visits or 21 business days, whichever occurs first. The physical therapist must also consult with an approved health care provider if after 10 visits or 21 business days, whichever occurs first, the patient has demonstrated measurable or functional improvement from the physical therapy and the physical therapist believes that continuation of physical therapy is necessary. The physical therapist cannot continue to provide physical therapy until the consultation has occurred. Continued physical therapy must be in accordance with any direction of the health care provider. The physical therapist must notify the health care provider of continuing physical therapy every 30 days.

This provision is similar to HB 410 (2019) and HB 2090 (2018).

## OPTOMETRIST CONTINUING EDUCATION

This bill requires optometrists to have two hours of continuing education in Missouri jurisprudence every two years, which can count toward their current required hours.

## PSYCHOLOGIST LICENSEES

Currently, any person seeking to obtain a license as a psychologist shall make an application to the Committee of Psychologists and shall pay the required application fee. The committee is not permitted to charge an application fee until such time as the application has been approved, and if an application is denied, no application fee shall be charged. This bill repeals such provision.

Currently, a psychologist licensed in another jurisdiction is permitted to receive a license in Missouri, provided the psychologist passes a written exam on Missouri law and regulations governing the practice of psychology. Such person must also meet one of several listed criteria set forth. This bill removes one listed criteria allowing a psychologist who is currently licensed or certified as a psychologist in another jurisdiction that is then a signatory to the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Board's reciprocity agreement to be eligible for a license in Missouri.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS

This bill requires psychologists to take three hours of professional ethics continuing education classes every two years. The hours can count toward the existing total 40 hours of continuing education required for psychologists.

This provision is the same as a provision of HB 705 (2019).

## CONVEYANCE DEEDS

The bill requires that when a property is subdivided and a new property description is created, the new property description must include the name and, if applicable, the professional license number of the person that created the property description. The bill prohibits a person from submitting for recording any conveyance of subdivided property with a new property description unless it contains the person's name and, if applicable, professional license number.

This provision is the same as HB 770 (2019) and similar to HB 934

(2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill is clean up language relating to psycholgist licenses and it will help keep costs down for all licenses. The removal of the reciprocity language is due to Missouri moving from the reciprocity agreement to a state compact, so the language is no longer needed.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Riddle; Missouri Division of Professional Registration; and the Missouri Psychological Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.