

HB 1832 -- COMPLAINTS AGAINST CERTAIN LICENSED PROFESSIONALS

SPONSOR: Wells

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill allows the State Committee for Professional Counselors within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration to remove unsubstantiated complaints made against licensed professional counselors by offenders who are in the custody of the Department of Corrections or who have been ordered into custody, detained, or held by the Department of Mental Health as sexually violent predators. Upon the written request of a licensed professional counselor subject to a complaint prior to August 28, 2010, by these offenders that did not result in disciplinary action, the committee and the Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration must destroy all documentation regarding the complaint, notify any other licensing board that was previously notified of the complaint of its actions, and send a letter to the licensee clearly stating that the complaint was unsubstantiated.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will provide licensed professional counselors with the same protections as other mental health care professionals from frivolous complaints brought by persons held in the Missouri Sexual Offender Treatment Center.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wells; and Dan Holdinghouse, National Association of Professional Counselors.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.