

HCS HB 136 -- UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR MILITARY SPOUSES AND
COURTESY LICENSES FOR CERTAIN PROFESSIONS

SPONSOR: Day

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Veterans
by a vote of 13 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding unemployment benefits
for military spouses and courtesy professional licenses for
nonresident military spouses.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR MILITARY SPOUSES

The substitute specifies that a claimant seeking unemployment
compensation is not disqualified for waiting week credit or
benefits, regardless if the claimant has earned wages for insured
work equal to 10 times the claimant's weekly benefit amount, if
the claimant quit work in order to relocate with his or her
spouse who is on active duty in the United States armed forces or
is a member of the national guard or reservist on active duty.
If a claimant is not disqualified as a result of this provision,
no benefits based on wages paid for work prior to the quitting
date can be chargeable to the claimant's former employer.

COURTESY PROFESSIONAL LICENSES FOR NONRESIDENT MILITARY SPOUSES

Any state agency or board that regulates an occupation or
profession must establish criteria for the issuance of a
temporary courtesy license to a nonresident spouse of an active
duty member of the military who is stationed in Missouri allowing
him or her to lawfully practice his or her occupation or
profession in this state. The substitute:

- (1) Requires an applicant for a courtesy license to hold a
current license or certificate from another state, district, or
United States territory whose licensing requirements are
equivalent to those established by Missouri law for that
occupation or profession;
- (2) Requires an applicant to have been engaged in the active
practice of the occupation or profession for at least two of the
past five years preceding the date of his or her application;
- (3) Specifies that an applicant cannot have committed an act
that would have constituted grounds for refusal, suspension, or
revocation of a license or certificate under Missouri law;
- (4) Specifies that an applicant cannot have been disciplined by
a licensing or credentialing entity or be the subject of an

unresolved complaint, review, or disciplinary proceeding;

(5) Authorizes the appropriate board or agency to conduct and pay for a criminal background check;

(6) Requires an applicant to pay any appropriate required fees and comply with other requirements as provided by the appropriate board; and

(7) Specifies that a temporary courtesy license or certificate will be valid for 180 days and may be extended at the discretion of the applicable regulatory board or agency for another 180 days.

These provisions will not apply to the practice of law or the regulation of attorneys.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill helps military families. Moving can be very stressful for a military family; and by allowing the spouse of an active duty member of the military to collect unemployment benefits, it alleviates some of that stress. The bill will affect approximately 200 spouses, and the benefits will be paid through the Unemployment Trust Fund.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Day; Dewey Rhein, Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations; and Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.