

HB 625 -- COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE ARRANGEMENTS

SPONSOR: Burlison

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 21 to 0.

This bill changes the laws regarding collaborative practice arrangements between physicians and registered professional nurses. The bill allows the arrangement to include a waiver of the geographic proximity requirement for up to 28 days per year for rural health clinics as long as the arrangement provides coverage during absence, incapacity, infirmity, or emergency by the collaborating physician. The bill only applies to independent rural health clinics and provider-based rural health clinics where the main location of the hospital sponsor is more than 50 miles from the clinic. The collaborating physician must maintain documentation relating to the geographic proximity requirement and must furnish it upon request of the State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts in the Division of Registration within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions, and Professional Registration.

PROponents: Supporters say that there are problems in the rural health clinics; if the doctor has to leave the area for any reason the clinic will have to close down. This bill allows these clinics to stay open and provide needed patient services.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Burlison; and Missouri Association of Rural Health Clinics.

OPponents: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that they would like the 50 mile restriction lifted.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Nurses Association.