

HCS SB 835 -- LICENSED PROFESSIONALS

SPONSOR: Wasson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 11 to 2. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on General Laws by a vote of 9 to 0.

Currently, the Nursing Education Incentive Program is administered by the Department of Higher Education. This bill makes the State Board of Nursing the administrative agency responsible for implementing the program.

This bill clarifies that only specified board certified neurologists may recommend hemp extract and sign the statement authorizing its use as part of the treatment plan of a patient diagnosed with intractable epilepsy. The bill specifies that an individual or health care entity organized under the laws of this state cannot be subject to any adverse action by the state or any of its agencies, including civil, criminal, and administrative penalties, if the person or entity, in its normal course of business and within its applicable licenses and regulations, acts upon or in furtherance of a statement, order, or recommendation by an authorized neurologist involving the medical use, possession, handling, storage, transfer, destruction, dispensing, or administration of hemp extract with respect to an eligible patient. It requires individuals or health care entities to act in good faith to receive protection and benefit of these provisions.

This bill establishes guidelines for the regulation of occupations and professions not regulated by the Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration prior to January 1, 2017.

All bills introduced in the General Assembly to regulate an occupation or profession for the first time must be reviewed according to specified criteria. After January 1, 2017, an applicant group must submit a written report explaining specified factors to the legislative committee of reference. Any legislative proposal that contains a continuing education requirement must be accompanied by an explanation of how the requirement could be effective for the profession addressed in the legislation.

The law currently requires an applicant for land surveyor-in-training to provide three letters of reference, at least one of which must be from a professional land surveyor who has personal knowledge of the applicant's land surveying education or

experience. An applicant for licensure as a professional land surveyor must provide at least three letters of reference, all of which must be from professional land surveyors with personal knowledge of the experience of the applicant's land surveying education or experience. This amendment removes any requirement for letters of reference in order to apply for enrollment as a land surveyor-in-training or to apply for licensure as a professional land surveyor. All other requirements would remain in effect.

This bill changes the laws regarding collaborative practice arrangements between advanced practice registered nurses and physicians and collaborative practice arrangements between assistant physicians and physicians. Currently, an advanced practice nurse or assistant physician must have the collaborating physician review a minimum of 10% of his or her charts every 14 days. This bill states that the collaborating physician does not need to be present at the health care practitioner's site when performing reviews. The bill waives the one month requirement of practicing with the collaborating physician when the collaborative physician is new to a patient population that the collaborating advanced practice registered nurse or assistant physician is already familiar.

This bill establishes a new nursing licensure compact in which states who are members of the compact, known as party states, may issue multistate nursing licenses for the practice of registered, licensed practical, or vocational nursing. A multistate nursing license shall authorize a nurse to practice under a multistate licensure privilege in each party state. The amendment does not affect the requirements established by a party state for the issuance of a single-state license. This compact shall become effective and binding on the earlier of the date of legislative enactment of this compact by no less than 26 states or December 31, 2018. All party states to this compact that were also parties to the prior nurse licensure compact shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the prior compact within six months after the effective date of this compact. Under this amendment, a party state must adopt procedures for considering the criminal history of applicants for an initial multistate license, and require an applicant for multistate licensure to submit fingerprints for a criminal background check.

This bill establishes this state as a member of a compact to facilitate the interstate practice of physical therapy. The compact will become effective after it has been approved by 10 member states. The bill outlines specific requirements that a state must complete in order to participate in the compact and that a licensee must adhere to in order to exercise privileges thereunder.

This bill is similiar to HB 1466, HB 2461, HB 1468, HB 2043, and HB 2328 (2016) and HCS HB 1183 (2015).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the current process has become overly burdensome. This bill simplifies the process by allowing the State Board of Nursing to make decisions about the program without needing approval from the Department of Higher Education.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Wasson; Missouri State Board of Nursing; Missouri Division Of Professional Registration; and Missouri Nurses Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.