

HCS SCS SB 836 -- HEALTH CARE

SPONSOR: Wasson (Burlison)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 16 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on General Laws by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill provides that the statutory prohibition of the unlawful practice of optometry shall not apply to students enrolled in an accredited school of optometry practicing under the direct supervision of a physician or optometrist.

Under this bill, the "Caregiver, Advise, Record, and Enable (CARE) Act," a hospital or ambulatory surgical center shall provide each patient or patient's legal guardian with an opportunity to designate a caregiver prior to the patient's discharge. Such designation shall include a written consent of the patient or the patient's legal guardian to release confidential medical information to the designated caregiver if such records are necessary for the provision of after-care. Such caregiver designation, or lack thereof, shall be documented by the hospital or ambulatory surgical center. The hospital or ambulatory surgical center shall notify a patient's caregiver of the patient's discharge or transfer as soon as practicable, and provide the caregiver with the patient's discharge plan or instructions for after-care. Nothing in this bill authorizes or requires compensation of caregivers by a state agency or health carrier. Hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, or employees or contractors of such shall not be liable in any way for the actions of a caregiver. Nothing in this bill shall interfere with the rights of an attorney in fact under a durable power of health care.

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.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill clarifies current law to ensure that optometry students can practice under supervision as part of their training.

This bill is similar to SB 1102 and HB 2328 (2016).

Testifying for the bill were Senator Wasson; Brian Barnett,

Missouri State Optometry Board; Missouri Division of Professional Registration; and Missouri Optometric Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.