

HCS HB 1195 -- PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

SPONSOR: Behnen

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 16 to 0.

This substitute contains provisions regarding deaf interpreters, tattooists, speech pathology assistants, fund accounts, and the licensing of foreign applicants.

DEAF INTERPRETERS

The substitute allows persons enrolled in accredited interpreter training programs to be exempt from licensure if they are only engaged in activities which constitute part of their course of study.

The substitute also allows certified deaf interpreters from other states to practice without a license for the purpose of providing temporary services at special events.

The substitute gives the Division of Professional Registration the authority to deny license renewal of deaf interpreters for failure to provide satisfactory evidence of current certification with the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

The substitute authorizes the commission to issue provisional certification as an interpreter to a person nominated by a school district if the district certifies that it is unable to locate and employ a certified licensed deaf interpreter.

TATTOOISTS

The substitute authorizes the division to issue temporary licenses for persons entering the state for the sole purpose of participating in a state or national convention where the applicant will be practicing the profession of tattooing, body piercing, and branding. The temporary license will be valid for 14 days.

SPEECH PATHOLOGY ASSISTANTS

The substitute repeals provisions regarding certain licensing requirements of speech pathology assistants.

FUND ACCOUNTS

The substitute requires money in the Athletic Fund, the Marital and Family Therapists Fund, the State Committee of Psychologists

Fund, the Committee of Professional Counselors Fund, and the Hearing Instrument Specialist Fund be three times the preceding year's appropriation prior to being placed in the General Revenue Fund.

LICENSURE OF FOREIGN APPLICANTS

The substitute requires persons from foreign countries when making application for a license or temporary permit to practice within any of the professions regulated by the division to provide their visa and/or passport identification number in lieu of a social security number.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill clarifies some ambiguous statutes pertaining to deaf interpreters, certain funds, and foreign applicants for professional licensure. The bill exempts deaf interpreter students from licensure as well as interpreters licensed from other states. Interpreters would also be required to provide evidence of certification prior to license renewal. It is necessary to remove the provision in the law which requires foreign applicants for licensure to provide a social security number. Most foreigners don't have social security numbers, so there is no way they can provide them. They will be required to provide the division with their social security number at the time of license renewal. The Office of Tattooing, Body Piercing and Branding needs the authority to issue temporary licenses. St. Louis hosts an annual tattoo convention, and out-of-state attendees need temporary permits to practice tattooing. Issuing temporary licenses will generate revenue for the state and St. Louis.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Behnen; Division of Professional Registration; and Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they would like the bill to allow school districts to be able to certify and employ persons to provide interpretive services in cases where licensed interpreters are not available.

Others testifying on the bill were Missouri School Boards Association; and Missouri Council of School Administrators.

Bob Dominique, Legislative Analyst