

HCS HB 1518 & 1522 -- Licensure of Behavior Analysts

SPONSOR: Grisamore

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special Committee on Disability Services by a vote of 7 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding the licensure of behavior analysts. The categories of provisionally licensed behavior analyst, provisionally licensed assistant behavior analyst, temporary licensed behavior analyst, and temporary licensed assistant behavior analyst are added to the current professions that can be licensed. The State Committee of Psychologists within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration is authorized to promulgate the necessary rules and procedures to license a qualified applicant. The substitute limits the length of time a provisional license can be granted and prohibits an unlicensed person from holding himself or herself out as being a provisionally or temporary licensed behavior analyst or assistant behavior analyst unless he or she meets the applicable requirements.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015. Estimated Net Income on Other State Funds of Up to \$5,000 in FY 2013, \$0 in FY 2014, and \$0 in FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the goal of the bills is to expand available therapeutic services by allowing individuals to continue to provide services in order to preserve continuity of care for individuals for those professionals seeking certification. They will help reduce the number of children waiting for services provided by behavioral analysts. The bills do not affect any reimbursement provisions. These are licensure bills only because they are specific to the provisional licensure component of the autism bill passed in 2009. Without the provisional license, an individual might be required to be fully licensed before he or she could practice. A provisional license allows a person to apply for a provisional license while completing the requirements to be fully licensed and accredited and to work under a licensed behavior analyst in a controlled environment.

Testifying for the bills were Representatives Grisamore and Meadows; and Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.