

HCS HB 1803 -- CERTIFIED SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS

SPONSOR: Brandom (Korman)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 19 to 0.

Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, this substitute requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, State Board of Education, and Office of Educator Quality to recognize certified school social workers. The State Committee for Social Workers within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration must issue a certificate to any person making application if the person has obtained a degree in social work from an accredited college or university and holds a valid professional license of social work issued by the state committee and a credential in school social work issued by a nationally recognized credentialing organization in social work as a certified school social worker.

Certification under these provisions does not automatically create eligibility for membership in the Public School Retirement System of Missouri and any person who otherwise meets the eligibility requirements for membership in the system cannot be disqualified solely because he or she is also certified.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the credentialing of school social workers is crucial for Missouri students in social work programs. We are losing qualified social workers to other states where credentialing is available.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Korman; National Association of Social Workers - Missouri Chapter; Washington University; and University of Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.