

HCS HB 671 & 683 -- LICENSURE OF PHYSICIANS

SPONSOR: Frederick

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 17 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on General Laws by a vote of 7 to 2.

Currently, the State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration cannot issue a permanent license as a physician and surgeon or allow the Missouri state board examination to be administered to any applicant who has failed to achieve a passing score within three attempts on any step on licensing examinations administered in one or more states or territories of the United States, the District of Columbia, or Canada within a seven-year period. This bill repeals those provisions.

The bill prohibits the state from requiring any form of maintenance of licensure as a condition of physician licensure. Current requirements including continuous medical education must suffice to demonstrate professional competency. The state must not require any form of specialty medical board certification or any maintenance of certification to practice medicine in this state. The state board or any other state agency must not discriminate against physicians who do not maintain specialty medical board certification including recertification.

PROPOSERS: Supporters of HB 671 say that due to the current limitation on how many times a person may take the licensing exam, many competent physicians are leaving Missouri and going to other states where they don't have the three strikes and you are out examining provision.

Supporters of HB 683 say that continuing medical education is adequate. Board certified physicians have already passed these exams and these national accreditation boards want to be able to have continuous maintenance on their certification. Supporters feel that it is just a way to generate revenue.

Testifying for HB 671 were Representative Frederick; Justin Puckett, Missouri Association Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons; and Missouri State Medical Association.

Testifying for HB 683 were Representative Koenig; Helen Gelhot; Lisa Pannett; Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons; and Missouri Academy of Family Physicians.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee on the bills.