

HB 1681 -- REGULATION OF PROPRIETARY SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Haahr

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on General Laws by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill exempts yoga courses, programs, or schools from provisions regulating proprietary schools.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that regulations meant for occupational or vocational schools should not apply to yoga teacher training programs. Many of the individuals who attend these programs are not intending to teach yoga on a full time basis, or even at all. Often their goal is to integrate what they learn about breathing or stretching into their existing careers, such as teaching or nursing. Supporters believe that the yoga teacher training programs are distinct from courses to teach employable, marketable knowledge or skills and that many of the existing regulations are not applicable to yoga teacher training.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Haahr; Roger Rippey, Yoga Alliance; Elle Potter, Yoga Buzz; and Amber Howlett.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the intent of the original legislation was to provide protection to consumers who pay to enroll in schools.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Department of Higher Education.