

HB 1682 -- MEDICAL PRACTICE FREEDOM ACT

SPONSOR: Frederick

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Health and Mental Health Policy by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Social Services by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill specifies that state licensure requirements for physicians, chiropractors, optometrists, and dentists must be granted based on demonstrated skill and academic competence and not conditioned upon participation in a health insurance plan, public health care system, public service initiative, or emergency room coverage. Licensure for physicians or optometrists shall be prohibited from being conditioned upon compliance with 45 CFR 170, relating to the meaningful use of electronic health records.

This bill is the same as HB 265 (2015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill would prohibit licensure for certain health care providers from being conditioned upon whether such provider participates in any particular health care plan. This is not currently happening in Missouri but could become an issue in the future. The bill would protect direct primary care providers who do not accept any insurance and instead contract directly with patients. Making direct primary care providers' licensure dependent upon acceptance of insurance could destroy the practice of direct primary care.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Frederick; Wes Powell; Missouri Association Of Physicians And Surgeons; Chris DeRose, Missouri Optometric Association; Missouri Academy Of Family Physicians; Jennifer Powell, MD; and the Missouri State Medical Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.