

HB 1697 -- COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE ARRANGEMENTS

SPONSOR: Rowland (155)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 16 to 2. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on General Laws by a vote of 8 to 0.

Currently, a collaborating physician is permitted to enter into a collaborative practice arrangement with three full-time equivalent advanced practice registered nurses. This bill increases the number to five.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that in rural areas it is difficult to find physicians within the required geographic proximity to participate in collaborative practice arrangements. These are the very areas that often have the most need for additional health care providers and would benefit from collaborative practice arrangements.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Rowland; Lisa Braden, Theodosia Family Medical Clinic LLC; Missouri Nurses Association; Missouri Coalition Of Community Mental Health Centers; Mark Cowherd; JoAnn Franklin; Missouri Hospital Association; and Missouri Association Of Rural Health Clinics.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that patients benefit by having a supervising physician within a reasonable distance. Difficulties can arise when the physician is too far removed from the practicing nurse and communication between the collaborators can suffer.

Testifying against the bill were Brad Bates and Missouri State Medical Association.