

HB 557 -- RELATING TO LAND SURVEYORS

SPONSOR: Ross

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass Not Consent" by the Committee on Consent and House Procedure by a vote of 7 to 3.

This bill removes any requirement for letters of reference in order to apply for enrollment as a land surveyor-in-training or to apply for licensure as a professional land surveyor. The law currently requires an applicant for land surveyor-in-training to provide three letters of reference, at least one of which must be from a professional land surveyor who has personal knowledge of the applicant's land surveying education or experience. An applicant for licensure as a professional land surveyor must provide at least three letters of reference, all of which must be from professional land surveyors with personal knowledge of the experience of the applicant's land surveying education or experience. All other requirements would remain in effect.

This bill is the same as HB 2461 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that even though the board currently requires letters of recommendation, the letters have no impact on the board's decisions. There is no reason to have the requirement. The board would not deny an applicant that has a negative review in a letter of reference but it would deny an applicant that didn't submit a letter.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Ross and the Missouri Society of Professional Surveyors.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.