

HCS HB 1928 -- PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

SPONSOR: Ross

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill states it will establish guidelines for the future regulation of occupations and professions within the State of Missouri. The bill specifies that the state may not impose a substantial burden on an individual's pursuit of his or her occupation or profession unless there is reasonable interest for the state to protect the general welfare. If an interest exists, the regulation adopted by the state must be the least restrictive type of occupational regulation consistent with the public interest to be protected. This bill states that all bills introduced in the General Assembly to regulate an occupation or profession should be reviewed according to specified criteria.

This bill requires regulatory entities and the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration to report and submit certain information to the legislature when any bill is filed that proposes new or additional regulation of a profession or occupation.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the goal of this bill is to ensure that all future professional regulations be based on fact and only imposed when necessary to protect the general welfare.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Ross; Americans For Prosperity; Wendy Doyle, Women's Foundation; and Roofing & Siding Contractors Alliance (RSCA).

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that state licensing requirements limit access to certain professions and women are more likely to be adversely affected by licensure regulations than men. There are alternatives to licensure that place less of a burden on professionals.

Testifying on the bill was Emily Johnson, Institute of Public Policy - University of Missouri.