

HCS HB 2295 -- MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

SPONSOR: Helms

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill adds psychiatric physician assistants, psychiatric APRNs, and psychiatric assistant physicians to the definition of mental health professionals for the purposes of Chapter 631, RSMo. The bill defines a psychiatric assistant physician as a licensed assistant physician under Chapter 334 who has had at least two years of experience as an assistant physician in providing psychiatric treatment to individuals suffering from mental health disorders and a psychiatric physician assistant as a licensed physician assistant under Chapter 334 and who has had at least two years of experience as a physician assistant in providing psychiatric treatment to individuals suffering from mental health disorders or a graduate of a postgraduate residency or fellowship for physician assistants in psychiatry or is currently in a postgraduate physician assistant residency or fellowship in psychiatry.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will help expand access to mental health care. Supporters stress that currently one in 10 adults suffer from some type of mental illness but 40% of mental illnesses go untreated.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Helms and Robert Sobule.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.