

CCS#2 SS HB 2149 -- PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

This bill modifies several provisions relating to professional licensing.

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS (Sections 334.530 and 334.655)

Currently, an individual applying to be licensed as a physical therapist must provide evidence of completion of a program of physical therapy education approved as reputable by the Board of the Healing Arts. This bill allows for the applicant to provide evidence of eligibility to graduate from such program within 90 days in lieu of the evidence of completion of the program.

Currently, an individual applying to be licensed as a physical therapist assistant must provide a certificate of graduation from an accredited high school or its equivalent and evidence of completion of an associate degree program of physical therapy education accredited by the Advisory Commission for Physical Therapists. This bill allows for the applicant to provide evidence of eligibility to graduate from such program within 90 days in lieu of the evidence of completion of the program.

Applicants must pass an examination with quality standard requirements established by the Board and any entity contracted by the Board to administer the board-approved examinations.

If the applicant fails the examination six or more times, he or she is no longer eligible for licensure.

HOME HEALTH LICENSING (Sections 197.400 and 197.445)

Current law limits licensed home health agencies to those that provide two or more home health services at the residence of a patient according to a physician's written and signed plan of treatment. This bill permits such licensed entities to provide treatment according to written plans signed by physicians, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, or physician assistants, as specified in the bill if the plan is reviewed by a physician at least once every six months.

EXEMPTIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL LICENSING (Sections 324.005 and B)

A professional who has a current license to practice his or her profession from another state, commonwealth, territory, or the District of Columbia shall be exempt from Missouri licensure requirements if the professional:

- (1) Is an active duty or reserve member of the Armed Forces, a

member of the National Guard, a civilian employee of the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), an authorized contractor under federal law, or a professional otherwise authorized under the DOD;

(2) Practices the same occupation or profession for which he or she holds a current license; and

(3) Is engaged in the practice of a profession through a partnership with the federal Innovative Readiness Training program within the DOD.

This exemption shall only apply while:

(1) The professional's practice is required by the program pursuant to military orders; and

(2) The services provided by the professional are within the scope of practice for individual's respective profession in Missouri.

This provision has an emergency clause.

LAND SURVEYORS (Sections 327.312, 327.313, 327.314, and 327.331)

Beginning January 1, 2024, this bill changes the name of a person licensed as a land surveyor-in-training to a land surveyor-intern. A person may apply to the Missouri Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors, and Professional Landscape Architects for enrollment as a land surveyor-intern if such person is a high school graduate or possesses a certificate of high school equivalence and has passed any examination required by the Board. Beginning January 1, 2024, this bill institutes new education, experience, and examination requirements for licensure as a land surveyor, as described in the bill.

MISSOURI DENTAL BOARD PILOT PROJECTS (Section 332.325)

This bill authorizes the Missouri Dental Board, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Senior Services and the Office of Dental Health within the Department of Health and Senior Services, to approve pilot projects designed to examine new methods of extending care to under-served populations. Such projects may employ techniques or approaches to care that may necessitate a waiver of statute or regulation and shall follow the requirements of the bill regarding scope, content, and reports.

The provisions of this section expire on August 28, 2026, and a report of the pilot projects approved by the Board shall be submitted to the General Assembly no later than December 1, 2025.

PHYSICIAN AND PHARMACIST PRESCRIPTION AND DISPENSATION OF
IVERMECTIN AND HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE (Sections 334.100 and 338.055)

This bill prohibits the State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts from taking administrative action against a certificate of registration or authority, permit, or license required by this Chapter for any person due to the lawful dispensing, distributing, or selling of ivermectin tablets or hydroxychloroquine sulfate tablets for human use in accordance with prescriber directions. A pharmacist cannot contact the prescribing physician or the patient to dispute the efficacy of ivermectin tablets or hydroxychloroquine sulfate tablets for human use unless the physician or patient inquires of the pharmacist about the efficacy of ivermectin tablets or hydroxychloroquine sulfate tablets.

AUDIOLOGISTS AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS (Sections 345.015,
345.022, 345.050, 345.052, and 345.085)

This modifies provisions relating to audiology and speech-language pathology. In order to be eligible for licensure by the State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts by examination under this bill, each applicant shall present written evidence of completion of a clinical fellowship. Any person in a clinical fellowship shall hold a provisional license to practice speech-language pathology or audiology and shall be issued a license if the person meets requirements set forth in the bill.

This also modifies provisions relating to license reciprocity.

Currently, applicants who are licensed in another country or hold a certificate of competence issued by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association may receive a license without an examination. This bill repeals this provision and implements a provision permitting any person who, for at least one year, has held a valid, current license issued by another state, a branch or unit of the military, a U.S. territory, or the District of Columbia, to apply for an equivalent Missouri license through the Board, subject to procedures and limitations as provided in the bill.

This bill also adopts the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact. The purpose of the compact is to increase access to audiology and speech-language pathology services by providing for the mutual recognition of other member state licenses. The compact sets forth requirements that must be met in order for a state to join the compact. Each member state shall require an applicant to obtain or retain a license in the home state and meet the home state's qualifications for licensure or renewal of licensure as well as all other applicable state laws.

The compact creates a joint public agency known as the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact Commission. The Commission has powers and duties as listed in the compact and shall enforce the provisions and rules of the compact. The Commission shall provide for the development, maintenance, and utilization of a coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action, and investigative information on all licensed individuals in member states.

The compact shall come into effect on the date on which the compact is enacted into law in the 10th member state. Any member state may withdraw from the compact by enacting a statute repealing the same. The compact shall be binding upon member states and shall supersede any conflict with state law.