



## House Committee Advances Occupational Licensure Reform

### *Governor's Priority Bills Would Ease Licensure for Military Spouses*

The House Professional Registration Committee advanced two pieces of legislation aimed at streamlining the process for individuals licensed in other states to become licensed to practice that profession in Missouri.

HB 1511, sponsored by Representative Steve Lynch (R-Waynesville), and HB 1452, sponsored by Representative Nick Schroer (R-O'Fallon), modify licensure processes for spouses of active duty military members who are transferred or scheduled to be transferred to Missouri. These bills fold nonresident military spouses into the existing law that governs reciprocity for Missouri residents who are licensed in another state. The law directs occupational boards to waive education, examination, and experience requirements if the standards for licensure in the applicant's home state are substantially similar to or more stringent than Missouri's.

However, the current reciprocity law for residents excludes certain licensure boards, such as the Board of Healing Arts, Board of Nursing, and the Board of Pharmacy. HB 1511 and HB 1452 permit nonresident military spouses to have licensure requirements waived for these professions.

These bills were consolidated and passed out of the Professional Registration Committee. A House Rules Committee is scheduled to consider the legislation on January 21.

Military spouse occupational licensure reform is a priority for Governor Mike Parson, and he mentioned this issue in the State of the State address on Wednesday. The Trump Administration's Governors' Initiative on Regulatory Reform promotes occupational licensure reform on the state level, specifically highlighting military spouses.

The Professional Registration Committee also passed HB 2046, sponsored by Representative Derek Grier (R-Chesterfield), which modifies reciprocity requirements more broadly. As passed by the committee, this legislation removes the occupations currently exempt from reciprocity, such as the professions governed by the Board of Healing Arts and Board of Nursing. It also includes teaching licenses in the reciprocity statute.

The current reciprocity law requires the applicant to be a resident of Missouri. HB 2046 extends the provisions to individuals living in other states who want to be licensed to practice in Missouri.

The language in HB 2046 directs occupational licensure boards to waive examination, education, and experience requirements if the applicant is licensed and met education/experience requirements in their home state. The current stipulations about the requirements being substantially similar to or more stringent than Missouri's standards are removed. HB 2046 is also scheduled for a hearing in a House Rules Committee on Tuesday.

## Dates of Interest

### *January*

- **8** - First Day of Session
- **15** - State of the State Address
- **20** - No Session, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

### *March*

- **20** - Legislative Spring Break Begins

## Two Senators Resign for Appointments

Two Democrat Senators from the Kansas City area were appointed to executive branch positions by Governor Mike Parson.

Senator Shalonn "Kiki" Curls was appointed to the state Labor and Industrial Relations Commission and Senator Jason Holsman was appointed to the Missouri Public Service Commission. The Labor

- **30** - Legislature Reconvenes

### **April**

- **13** - No Session, Easter Break

### **May**

- **8** - Budget Bills Must be Passed
- **15** - Last Day of Session

and Industrial Relations Commission is constitutionally directed to oversee the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. The Public Service Commission regulates investor-owned utilities, including electric, natural gas, and water.

Both Senators were scheduled to term out of the Senate at the end of 2020. They have officially resigned their seats to take the new positions. Curls and Holsman were both approved by the Senate Gubernatorial Appointments Committee on Wednesday. The full Senate confirmed their appointments on Thursday.

With their departure from the Senate, the chamber is now comprised of 24 Republicans, eight Democrats, and two vacancies.

## **News in Brief**

- This week the Missouri Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling that Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft said “eviscerated” Missouri’s voter ID provisions, which passed on the ballot in 2016. The decision affirms that voters without a photo ID cannot be required to sign an affidavit swearing to their identity. The Secretary of State is also barred from distributing information stating that a photo ID is required in order to vote.
- Next Wednesday, the House Insurance Policy Committee will hear Representative Holly Rehder’s Narcotics Control Act, HB 1693. This bill establishes a statewide prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP). Missouri is currently the only state without a statewide PDMP.
- The House Elections and Elected Officials Committee is hearing a resolution on Wednesday that, if approved by voters, would change the threshold for initiative petitions to appear on the ballot. Currently, petitions to amend the constitution must be signed by 8% of legal voters in two-thirds of the state's congressional districts. The threshold for statutory initiative petitions is 5%. HJR 63, sponsored by Representative Tim Remole (R-Excello), would require petitions to meet these signature numbers in

all counties. Petitions would also have to name the group or individual sponsoring the effort.

- The Senate Committee on Ways and Means is scheduled to hear legislation to create a tax deduction for unreimbursed educator expenses of up to \$500. SB 583 is sponsored by Senator Lauren Arthur (D-Kansas City).
- Senate President Pro Tem Dave Schatz (R-Sullivan) is sponsoring legislation to remove the residency requirement for St. Louis City police officers. This is designed to address vacancies in the force. Currently, St. Louis City police officers must live in the city for seven years, and then they may reside within a one-hour response time. SB 558 would eliminate the residency requirement and only mandate a one-hour response time. This bill will be heard in the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee next week.