

HCS HB 1533 -- SOCIAL WORKERS

SPONSOR: Shields

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1533.

Currently, an individual can become a social worker if he or she has received a baccalaureate or master's degree in social work. The social work programs must be accredited and approved by the council on social work education.

This bill allows individuals to get a master's degree from a social work program in precandidacy for accreditation that is recognized and approved by the committee for social workers.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the Masters of Social work is a terminal degree and schools that are in the precandidacy stage will have high standards. This bill will help the Board of Social Workers monitor programs in precandidacy and ensure that participants that are doing supervised hours will be able to complete a program in a timely fashion without waiting for the program to reach full accreditation.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Shields; Jana Frye, Missouri Western State University; Sarah Scott; Cassie Brown, National Association of Social Workers Missouri Chapter; David Pearce, University Of Central Missouri; and Chastity Kelley.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that there need to be protections in place to ensure that mental health professionals are not referring patients out of state for transgender procedures and that the current interstate compact for social workers allows rules to become laws.

Testifying in person against the bill was Lisa Pannett.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.