



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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***THE APPARENT PROBLEM:***

Pharmacists who are licensed in other states and who move to Michigan may be licensed by "endorsement" rather than having to go through the full licensing process. In order to insure that no disciplinary actions are pending nor sanctions are in force against an applicant for endorsement, the Michigan Board of Pharmacy has required applicants, as part of their application process, to obtain certification to that effect from a national clearinghouse of boards of pharmacy. However, the attorney general advised the board that it had no statutory authority to impose such a requirement, so the board has asked for legislation granting it such authority.

***THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:***

The bill would amend the Public Health Code to allow the Board of Pharmacy to require pharmacists who apply for licensure by endorsement to obtain certification from "a national association or federation of state professional licensing boards." The certification would have to state that the applicant did not have any disciplinary actions pending against him or her nor sanctions in force at the time of application.

MCL 333.16186

***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

Fiscal information is not available.

***ARGUMENTS:***

***For:***

Pharmacists already licensed in other states or countries who move to Michigan and wish to practice should not be required to go through the full licensure procedure. At the same time, Michigan citizens should be protected from pharmacists who move into the state but who are not in good professional standing. Allowing the Michigan Board of Pharmacy to use the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy to provide the necessary background information on pharmacists applying for Michigan licensure by endorsement would provide just such protection.

***Against:***

Applicants for licensure as pharmacists by endorsements should not be required to obtain certification regarding their professional standing from private agencies in order to be licensed in Michigan. Not only does this add to the expense of the licensing process for the individual pharmacist, it also involves private agencies in what should be a purely public licensure process.

***Response:*** As the series of newspaper articles a few years ago on "bad doctors" indicated, it is all too easy for health professionals to continue to practice even though they have had disciplinary actions taken against them or sanctions imposed on them. The bill would provide much-needed protection to Michigan citizens from pharmacists who move to the state but who are not in good professional standing, and would do so in a way that is fair to the pharmacists and cost-effective to the state.

**LICENSING OUT-OF-STATE PHARMACISTS**

House Bill 4771 (Substitute H-2)  
First Analysis (11-17-87)

Sponsor: Rep. Bill Martin  
Committee: Public Health

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***POSITIONS:***

The Department of Public Health has no position on the bill. (11-17-87)

The Department of Licensing and Regulation supports the bill. (11-17-87)

The Michigan Association of Pharmacists supports the bill. (11-9-87)

H.B. 4771 (11-17-87)