



**Missouri Organization for  
Clinical Laboratory Science**

**Missouri's Pursuit in Licensure**

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**Missouri Organization for  
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**Current Licensure Activity**

- First meeting in 2003
- Representatives from MoCLS, ASCP, CLMA, MoSSAMT, met to discuss and explore the possibility of licensure of Clinical Laboratory Personnel in the State of Missouri
- Formation of Missouri Coalition for Licensure of Clinical Laboratory Personnel

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**Missouri Organization for  
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**Licensure Process**

- Reviewed model bills from participating organizations and from states with current licensure bills or in the process of licensure.
- Defined which laboratory disciplines should be included in the bill

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**Licensure Process**

- Learned about Missouri legislative and administrative process
- Identified lobbyists and legislative sponsors.

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**Missouri Bill Contents**

- Included CLS, CLT, Categorical/Specialists, Phlebotomist/Lab Assistants
- Standards: Education, Experience, Exams
- Grandfathering Clause

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**Missouri Bill Contents**

- Defined the licensure board:  
 (1) Pathologist, (1) Non-Physician Lab Director, (1) Medical Physician that is not a pathologist or lab director, (2) CLS, (1) CLT, (1) Public Member

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**2005**

- Bill's first introduction to Missouri General Assembly
- HB 550 Sponsored by Rep. Jay Wasson
- Testified before House subcommittee  
"Special Standing Committee on Professional  
Registration & Licensing" -May 2005

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**2006**

- Legislators found the 2005 bill to wordy and too complicated to understand. Bill was rewritten to eliminate the CLS/MT, CLT/MLT terminology and only utilize CLS, CLT.
- Also reviewed other licensed healthcare professions past licensure bills in the State of Missouri (i.e. Nursing, Dieticians) and model bill language to reflect previously Missouri healthcare licensure bills. Dieticians received licensure in 2005 and the last healthcare profession to achieve licensure.

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**2006**

- SB 1099 Sponsor Senator Dan Clemens  
–Testified before Senate subcommittee "Financial &  
Governmental Organizations & Elections"-April 2006
- HB 2051 Sponsor Rep. Jay Wasson  
–Referred to House subcommittee, no hearing  
scheduled

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**2007**

- Improved our email/letter/telephone campaign to each legislative committee member. Timing is key.
- SB 314 Sponsor Senator Dan Clemens
  - testified before Senate subcommittee February 2007
  - Senate subcommittee asked questions
- HB Not filed – No sponsor identified.

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**2008**

- November 2007 – met with MHA, MMA, MSP to open the lines of communication with opposition for any opportunity to reach a compromise.
- Resulting from that meeting, small changes made to the language to expand the length of the grandfathering phase.

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**2008**

- SB 1162 Sponsor Senator Dan Clemens
  - Testified before the Senate subcommittee March 2008
  - Committee members asked questions of supporting & opposing witnesses.
  - Hearing ended w/ Chairman Sen. Scott stating "I find it very concerning that the healthcare society oppose licensing one of their own."
- HB 2139 Sponsor Rep Jim Guest
  - Referred to House subcommittee – no hearing scheduled

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**2009**

- Bill filed December 1, 2008
- Mid December 2008 – CAP announces they will change their stance from opposition to support of licensure if bill language reflects 7 requirements.
- Per lobbyist recommendation, push to have bill referred to “Health, Mental Health, Seniors and Families” committee.

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**2009**

- Held 1<sup>st</sup> Missouri Leg Days February 2009
- Utilized Leg Days as educational session for legislative leaders and to increase recognition of the profession.
- 8 MoCLS members essentially blitz the state capitol by meeting face to face with as many senate and house committee members possible. Leave behinds with each senate and house committee member office.

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**2009**

- March 2009 – MSP requests meeting to discuss feasibility reaching a compromise. MSP submits 14 revisions of which MoCLS accepts 12 of the 14 revisions.
- Submitted a “Senate Substitute Bill” reflecting the changes .

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**2009**

- SB 365 Sponsor Senator Dan Clemens
  - Referred to "Health, Mental Health, Seniors and Families" committee.
  - Hearing held April 7, 2009
- HB 1063 Sponsor Rep. Jim Guest
  - Referred to house subcommittee
  - In process launching email/letter campaign requesting hearing.

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**CAP Support Criteria**

1. Support for state licensure of medical technologists and technicians with a defined scope of work
2. Support for the creation of limited specialty licenses for personnel who perform specialty services in the laboratory
3. Minimum educational standards for each licensure category
4. Clarification that all clinical laboratory personnel work under the supervision, control and direction of the laboratory director

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**CAP Support Criteria**

5. Incorporate definition of medical independent judgment that clearly establishes that in the laboratory, pathologists alone make independent medical judgments in the diagnosis and treatment related to clinical laboratory tests
6. Balanced representation on laboratory licensing boards from all members of the laboratory team
7. Restrictions on the authority of the state licensing board to modify and expand licensing requirements provided by state statute

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**Pitfalls**

**Opposition:**

- CAP – same stance quoted nationally
- Missouri Hospital Association (MHA) –
  - “Current standards appear to be working well in protecting our hospitals’ patients from harm.”
  - “Value in providing licensure for phlebotomists in protecting public safety would be negligible.”

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**Pitfalls**

- 2005 bill was to wordy, to complicated for legislatures to understand. Therefore in 2006, bill was rewritten & since then been told by legislators they understand the new version.
- Continue to struggle reaching our grassroots on licensure education.

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**Pitfalls**

- The dissolution of the Missouri Coalition for Licensure for Laboratory Personnel
- Developing the support contact data base for communication for mass emails/writing letters/telephone campaigns
- Developing the timing process when to launch the email/letter/telephone campaign
- Filing the bill in timely fashion

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## Missouri Organization for Clinical Laboratory Science

### States requiring personnel licensure

California (1937)	Puerto Rico (1939)	Florida (1967)
Nevada(1967)	Tennessee (1967)	Hawaii (1974)
North Dakota (1990)	West Virginia (1991)	
Louisiana (1992)	Rhode Island(1992)	
Montana (1993)	New York (2005)	

### Facility licensure (w/ personnel components)

Alaska	Georgia
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## Missouri Organization for Clinical Laboratory Science

### Current Licensure Efforts/Activity

Illinois	Utah	Massachusetts
Ohio	Michigan	South Carolina
Minnesota	Wyoming	Pennsylvania
Texas	Vermont	Virginia
Washington	New Jersey	South Dakota
Delaware	Iowa	Missouri
Georgia	Alaska	

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## Missouri Organization for Clinical Laboratory Science

### Perseverance

- We are committed to continue to move forward solo.
- We have opened the communication lines with the opposition which resulted in minor wording changes in the 2008 bill and major changes in the 2009 bill.
- We are receiving recognition in the legislature!

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**Personal Motto**

The question is not if we will ever have  
licensure, the question is WHEN will we have  
licensure. It is a matter of time.

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**Questions?**

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