



Health and Human Services Committee  
February 5, 2015  
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2119  
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Executive Administrator

Good Afternoon Chairman Hawkins and members of the Health and Human Service Committee. My name is Mary Blubaugh, Executive Administrator for the Kansas State Board of Nursing. I am here to provide testimony in support of HB 2119.

The Board of Nursing has licensed mental health technicians (LMHT) for many years. The last school closed in the early 2000's and since then the number of LMHT has declined. There are currently 67 LMHTs licensed in Kansas. The Board has recently approved the opening of two LMHT programs; Osawatomie State Hospital/Fort Scott Community College and Larned State Hospital/Barton County Community College. The Board has not given an exam for licensure since the last school closed. The exam was outdated and a new one needed to be developed. KSBN contracted with a testing company to assist with the development and administration of the new exam. KSBN had subject matter experts help develop the new exam. The exam is computer based and will be administered in testing sites in Wichita, Topeka, and Great Bend. The cost for the exam will be \$210 and the current cap that the Board can charge for the exam is \$40. The requested cap change in the statute will allow the board to cover the cost of the exam. The intent of the board is to place in regulation the cost of exam for the actual cost at \$210. The other requested increase in caps brings the caps to the same as they are for nurses.

The requested addition in the statute allows for examination or reexamination fee to be collected by the Board of Nursing or be paid directly to the examination service by the person taking the exam.

The board respectfully asks for favorable action on HB 2119. Thank you for your time and consideration and I will stand for questions.