



Health and Human Services Committee
February 12, 2016
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2645
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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 2645.

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 72 LMHTs licensed in Kansas. The Board has recently approved the opening of two LMHT programs; Fort Scott Community College and Barton County Community College. We have also received an application for a third LMHT program. 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 The exam was outdated and a new one needed to be developed.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 is \$215 and the current cap that the Board can charge for the exam is \$40. This fall we had 7 graduates test. Each graduate paid the board of nursing \$40.00 and then the board of nursing paid the testing company \$215.00. The expense for the board was \$1225.00. One graduate did not pass and is scheduled to retest which will make the total cost \$1400.00 for this graduation class. The requested change in the statute removes the cap for examination and reexamination and allows for examination fee be paid directly to the examination service by the person taking the examination.

Throughout the statute, the word patient has been changed to individual. There is also updated language for the role of the licensed mental health technician and the scope was not changed.

The board respectfully asks for favorable action on HB 2645. Thank you for your time and consideration and I will stand for questions.