

Approved: 2-2-98
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sandy Praeger at 10:00 a.m. on January 27, 1998 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Robin Kempf, Legislative Research Department
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Jo Ann Bunten, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mary Ann Gabel, Executive Director, Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board

Others attending: See attached list

Approval of Minutes

Senator Steineger made a motion to approve the Committee minutes of January 20, 21 and 22, 1998, as written, seconded by Senator Hardenburger. The motion carried.

Introduction of Bills

Senator Steineger requested introduction of a Committee bill that would allow Emergency Medical Technicians to administer life saving techniques as well as technical clean-up of language in the bill. Senator Jones made a motion that the Committee recommend introduction of the proposed legislation, seconded by Senator Hardenburger. The motion carried.

Senator Praeger requested introduction of a Committee bill that would allow only non-prescription medicine to be dispensed through a vending machine in the manufacturer's original package. Senator Becker made a motion that the Committee recommend introduction of the proposed legislation, seconded by Senator Langworthy. The motion carried.

Hearing on SB 467 - Psychologists and masters level psychologists; examinations; fees

Senator Hardenburger briefed the Committee on the background of SB 467 that was recommended to the Committee by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations which Senator Hardenburger now chairs. The bill would allow the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board to increase the fees for the psychologist or master level psychologist licensure examination and require applicants to pay the examination fees directly to the examination service administering the tests rather than to the Board.

Mary Ann Gabel, Executive Director, Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, submitted written testimony and expressed her support for SB 467. Ms. Gabel noted that the bill was introduced at the Board's request to amend the statutory limitation on the licensure examination fee in both the licensed psychology and the licensed masters level psychology statutes to address a \$100 increase in the cost to purchase the national psychology examination. Ms. Gabel pointed out that the cost to the Board to purchase the examination will increase from \$260 to \$360, effective April 1, 1999. The bill would increase the fee limit to approximately \$500 and be paid directly to the examination service administering the tests. It was also noted that under the current method of collecting fees, 20% of the fees are deposited in the state general fund. (Attachment 1) Committee discussion related to how and when exams are administrated, as well as concern expressed on the increase of fees for these examinations.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 1998.

STATE OF KANSAS
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EDWARD F. WIEGERS,
Chairperson



MARY ANN GABEL, MPA
Executive Director

BOARD MEMBERS

Public Representatives
Gordon Hibbard, B.S.
Linda Ward Mosier, B.S.
Edward F. Wiegiers
Douglas Wood, J.D.

Psychology Representatives
Larry W. Hays, Ph.D.
John G. Randolph, Ph.D.

Social Work Representatives
Carolyn Ramirez Albott, LCSW
Kathleen W. Waddell, LCSW

RPC Representative
Patricia Grimwood, M.S.

RMLP Representative
Jay Mann, M.S.

RMFT Representative
Daniel R. Lord, Ph.D.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

SB 467

SENATOR SANDY PRAEGER, SENATOR LARRY SALMANS, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

I am Mary Ann Gabel, Executive Director of the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board. I appear before you today on behalf of the board to request your favorable passage of SB 467.

Each applicant for licensure as either a psychologist or a master's level psychologist is statutorily required to pass an examination prescribed by the board. Since the inception of psychology licensure in 1967, the board has used the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP). The EPPP is a national examination that is owned by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) and is administered through Professional Examination Service (PES). This examination is recognized in each of the 50 states and several of its territories, as well as several North American provinces. This national examination facilitates reciprocity.

SB 467 was introduced at the board's request to amend the statutory limitation on the examination fee in both the licensed psychology and the licensed masters level psychology statutes to address a \$100 increase in the cost to purchase the national psychology examination.

The statutory limitation for the examination fee is currently set at \$350. The cost to the board to purchase the examination from ASPPB will increase from \$260 to \$360, effective April 1, 1999. [Applicants currently pay a \$325 examination fee with 20% of this fee (\$65) mandated for deposit in the state general fund.]

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The increased purchase price will not only exceed the statutory limitation of \$350 by \$10, but will also exceed the 20% mandated general fund deposit. In the absence of a statutory amendment to increase the examination fee limitation, and even with a regulatory examination fee increase to the current \$350 statutory limitation, the increased purchase price will either:

1. prevent the board from purchasing the examination; thus crippling its credentialing; or,
2. require the board fee fund to subsidize each psychology applicant in the amount of \$80 [\$350 examination fee minus the 20% (\$70) state general fund deposit minus the \$360 examination purchase price]. The total loss to the fee fund will in the first year alone, be approximately \$5,600. This computed loss is based on 70 projected applicants. The fee fund can neither support, nor is it appropriate to subsidize this expense.

The proposed statutory amendments contained in SB 467 provide the board with two options. The first option is contained in Section 1 [pg. 1, lines 20-24] and in Section 2 (b)(6) [pg. 2, lines 34-40]. This option increases the statutory limitation of the examination fee from \$350 to \$500 and will enable the board to increase the examination fee in regulation to accommodate the increased cost to purchase the examination.

The second option in the bill authorizes the board to require each group of licensure applicants to pay the examination fee directly to the examination service. These proposed statutory amendments are found in Section 1 (b) [pg. 1, lines 27-30] and in Section 2 (b)(6)(B) [pg. 2, lines 41-43 and pg. 3, lines 1-3].

On behalf of the board, I respectfully request the committee's favorable passage and subsequent support of SB 467.

Thank you for your consideration. I will be happy to attempt to answer any questions the committee members may have.

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