

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brenda Landwehr at 2:00 p.m. on March 3, 2009, in Room 784 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except Representatives Morrison and Shulz.

Committee staff present:

Norm Furse, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Melissa Calderwood, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Janet Grace, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Diane Glynn, Board of Nursing (Attachment 1)
Carolyn Middendorf, Kansas State Nurses Association (Attachment 2)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Landwehr called the meeting to order.

The Chair opened the hearing on **HB 2343 - Nurses; licensure; qualifications.**

Norm Furse provided an overview of the bill at the beginning of the hearing.

Diane Glynn, Practice Specialist for the Kansas State Board of Nursing, provided proponent testimony for this bill (Attachment 1). The current statute requires graduation from a high school accredited by the appropriate legal accrediting agency or the equivalent of a high school education as determined by the State Department of Education for licensure in Kansas as a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse. Over the last few years there has been an increase in the number of graduates from nursing school who were home schooled and have not received a high school diploma or GED. The Department of Education does not accredit home schools, but statute requires the equivalent as determined by the Department of Education, which is a GED. Several applicants have applied that are qualified but are home schooled. The home schooled did not believe they should have to pay for and go through the process to get a GED, stating this is a principle issue. The Board of Nursing believes that a high school graduation or the equivalent is no longer needed as a requirement for licensure due to the reasons in Diane Glynn's testimony. The students show a proficiency in the areas needed for admission. The requirements are viewed as stringent.

Carolyn Middendorf, Kansas State Nurses Association (KSNA) provided proponent testimony for **HB 2343** (Attachment 2). The KSNA is in support of this bill that would remove from the Nurse Practice Act the language requiring a high school education or its equivalent as a licensure requirement for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses. Since the establishment of the law, education for registered nurses has transitioned from hospital-based diploma education to associate or baccalaureate college degrees. KSNA believes that students meeting the admission requirements for these programs and successfully completing the program of study have shown the scholastic ability that the high school graduation requirement was originally meant to demonstrate.

There were no opponents to this bill.

The committee worked **HB 2343**. Representative Neighbor moved to pass the bill out favorably and put on the consent calendar. Representative Siegreid seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

HOUSE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

DATE: 3-3-09

NAME	REPRESENTING
John Kiefhaber	Ks. Chiropractic Assn.
Carolyn Mendenlof	Ks St No Assn
Alice Boyd	KBBN
ADRIAN GUERRERO	KBBN
DEBORAH STEIN	Ks. Hosp. Assn.
Linda Sheppard	KID
Julie Holmes	KID
Mark McChesney	KID
Darck Hein	Hahn Law Firm
Patrick Vogelsberg	Kearney / KMS
Doug Smith	Pinegar, Smith & Associates
Michelle Butler	Capital Strategies
Matt Casey	G B A
Kern Spielman	KATA
Natasha Buglio	Bright : Carpenter
Dawn Norin	Ks Medical Society

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Health and Human Services Committee
March 3, 2009

Testimony in Support of HB 2343

Diane Glynn, J.D., R.N.
Practice Specialist

Good Afternoon Chair Landwehr and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Diane Glynn, Practice Specialist for the Kansas State Board of Nursing. I am providing testimony on behalf of the Board Members to provide support of HB 2343 which will remove a high school graduation or the equivalent as a requirement for licensure as a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse.

The current statute requires graduation from a high school accredited by the appropriate legal accrediting agency or the equivalent of a high school education, as determined by the state department of education for licensure in Kansas as a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse. Over the last couple of years there has been an increase in the number of graduates from nursing school who were home schooled and have not received a high school graduation or GED. Since the Department of Education does not accredit home schools, the statute requires the equivalent as determined by the Department of Education, which is a GED. Last year we had several home schooled applicants for licensure who had not graduated from an accredited high school or did not have a GED. The Board of Nursing worked with the Department of Education to assist these applicants to meet the requirement for licensure. The Department of Education issued letters that stated that they believed that any student had the equivalent of a high school education if they had graduated from a school of nursing with a bachelor or associate degree or had successfully completed a licensed practical nurse school, and that school is accredited by national certification agency.

The board of nursing has reviewed the statute and discussed the issue at length. They believe that a high school graduation or the equivalent is no longer needed as a requirement for licensure due to:

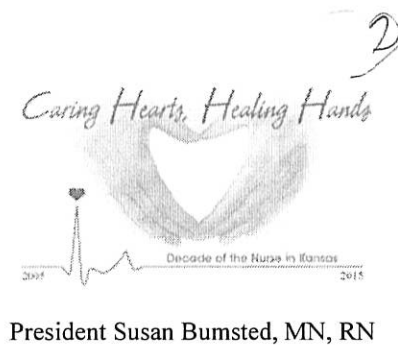
1. Schools of nursing have an admission procedure which includes review ACT or SAT scores, entrance exams which assess math, writing, reading, and conduct interviews.
2. The Board of Nursing regulates nursing schools and surveys are conducted on regular bases.
3. A review on the National Council of States Boards of Nursing "2007 Member Board Profile" reveals that there are 19 states that do not require a high school graduation or its equivalent for licensure.

We ask for favorable action on this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration and I will stand for questions.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DATE: 03/03/09
ATTACHMENT: 1



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March 3, 2009

Testimony Before the
Health and Human Services Committee
HB 2343: Nurse Licensure Requirements

Chairwoman Landwehr and Committee Members:

My name is Carolyn Middendorf and I represent the Kansas State Nurses Association (KSNA). KSNA is supportive of HB 2343 which would remove from the Nurse Practice Act the language requiring a high school education or its equivalent as a licensure requirement for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses.

With an increase in the number of home schooled students there has been a resultant increase in the number of nursing students who have successfully completed two or four years of a college education, but do not have a basic high school diploma or GED recognized by the Department of Education. Recent graduates have been faced with not meeting this requirement for licensure, and even though they were subsequently allowed to test and become licensed, it created confusion for the students and nursing programs, and a delay in completion of their application.

Since the establishment of the law, education for Registered Nurses has transitioned from hospital based diploma education to associate or baccalaureate college degrees. These programs are required to meet specific standards to be approved by the Board of Regents, the Board of Nursing and most are accredited by national organizations. Programs educating Licensed Practical Nurses meet similar standards. KSNA believes that students meeting the admission requirements for these programs and successfully completing the program of study have shown the scholastic ability that the high school graduation requirement was originally meant to demonstrate.

KSNA asks you to favorably pass HB 2343 out of committee. Thank you.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DATE: 03/03/09
ATTACHMENT: 2