

SESSION OF 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 470

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Public Health and Welfare

Brief*

SB 470, as amended, would amend current law requirements for temporary licenses issued by the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board for the four master level professions regulated by the Board: licensed professional counselor, clinical level social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist, and licensed masters level psychologist. For professional counselors and social workers, the bill would specify that a temporary license would expire on the date the Board issues or denies a license to practice, or six months after the issuance date unless there are extenuating circumstances. For marriage and family therapists, the temporary license would expire 12 months after the issuance date. For psychologists, the temporary license would expire 24 months after the issuance date.

No additional temporary licenses would be renewed or issued for the same license level but the number of times an applicant may take the examination would not be limited. Additionally, the bill would require that social worker temporary licensees first submit proper documentation and, unless there are extenuating circumstances, take the licensing examination within six months. Psychologist temporary licensees would be required to take the licensing examination within 12 months.

The bill also would clarify that if the marriage and family therapist temporary licensee does not take the license examination within six months subsequent to the issuance date of the temporary license, and no extenuating circumstances have been approved by the Board, the temporary license would expire after the first six months. Also, if the psychologist temporary licensee does not take the examination within 12 months subsequent to the issuance date of the temporary license, and no extenuating circumstances have been approved by the Board, the temporary license would expire after the first 12 months.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

The bill would require persons practicing professional counseling, marriage and family therapy, and psychology with a temporary license to be under the supervision of a person licensed by the Board at the independent level or, in the case of the psychologist, a person licensed to practice psychology or masters level psychology in Kansas. Other technical amendments were made.

Background

SB 470 was introduced by the Committee on Public Health and Welfare at the request of the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board. A Board representative stated that the bill would restrict the issuing of temporary licenses by shortening the length of time an individual could hold a temporary license and by disallowing the renewal or reissuing of a temporary license except for extenuating circumstances. This would correct the current situation of individuals receiving a temporary license, not sitting for the licensing examination, and then renewing the temporary license. A representative of the Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers also presented testimony in support of the bill.

There were no opponents to the bill.

The Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare amended the bill to clarify a requirement for the expiration of the temporary license for marriage and family therapists and for psychologists.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the introduced version of the bill, based on information provided by the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, states that passage of SB 470 would reduce revenue to the Behavioral Sciences Fee Fund by \$3,000 as a result of approximately 60 persons not seeking a temporary permit at a cost of \$50 per permit.