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MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Gossage and the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

From: Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: March 18, 2024

Subject: Bill Brief on House Bill 2484

House Bill 2484 enacts the social work licensure compact to provide interstate practice privileges for social workers.

- Section 1 sets out the purpose of the compact, which is to facilitate interstate practice of regulated social workers while preserving the regulatory authority of states to protect public health and safety.
- Section 2 provides relevant definitions for terms used in the compact. The definition of “regulated social worker” in subsection (t) sets out that this compact applies to any clinical, master’s or bachelor’s social worker licensed in a state that has enacted the compact.
- Section 3 sets out the criteria for states to participate in the compact. These include licensing the practice of social work, minimum requirements for applicants for social work licensure, and consideration of the criminal history of applicants for licensure.
- Section 4 sets out the criteria for an individual to be eligible for multistate licensure. Applicants must meet certain base level requirements, and then must meet additional requirements based on the license for which the applicant is applying.
- Section 5 requires the home state to determine an applicant's eligibility for a multistate license and, if eligible, to issue the multistate license in the appropriate category.
- Section 6 lists the limits that the compact places on the authority of the interstate compact commission and member state licensing authorities.
- Section 7 allows a multistate licensee to be reissued a multistate license if they have moved to a new member state.
- Section 8 requires an active duty military member or their spouse to designate a home state where the individual has a multistate license and would allow the individual to retain that designation during the time that the active duty military member is on active duty.

- Section 9 allows a remote state to take adverse action against a multistate license, issue subpoenas for hearings and investigations as enforced by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- Section 10 establishes social work licensure compact commission and designates the commission's power and authority.
- Section 11 requires that the commission provide for the development and maintenance of a coordinated data system for all applicants for a multistate license in all member states.
- Section 12 requires that the commission adopt rules and regulations to implement and administer the provisions of the compact.
- Section 13 sets out the rules for oversight, dispute resolution and enforcement of the compact.
- Section 14 states that the effective date of the commission is upon passage in the 7th member state. Procedures for a state's withdrawal and amendment of the compact are also provided.
- Section 15 contains a severability clause, which gives instructions to a court interpreting the compact if a provision is held unconstitutional. The commission is also granted authority to deny a state's participation in the compact if a constitutional requirement of the state is a material departure from the compact.
- Section 16 provides that nothing in the compact is to prevent or inhibit the enforcement of any other law or regulation in a participating state.

Section 2 was added by the house and amends K.S.A. 65-6314 to specify that the fee for an application, new license, reinstatement or renewal of a license shall not exceed \$140.

The bill would take effect on publication in the statute book, July 1, 2024.

HB 2484 passed the house on a vote of 118-2.