

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2280**

As Agreed to March 26, 2025

Brief*

HB 2280 would amend several laws applicable to veterans and military spouses. It would:

- Amend the definition of “complete application” in law governing occupational licensing and waiver of licensing fees by including military spouses even if the spouse’s service member is not considered to be on active duty;
- Modify the definitions of “veteran” and “disabled veteran” in several chapters of the Kansas Statutes Annotated to include those groups and individuals listed under 38 CFR § 3.7. [Note: 38 CFR § 3.7 lists 25 distinct groups or individuals who are considered to have performed active military, naval, air, or space service, and thereby deemed a veteran by the U.S. Congress.]; and
- Add a definition of “veteran” to the statute governing requirements for the issuance of a 1st Infantry Division distinctive license plate and would make a technical change to update a reference to the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office, now named the Kansas Office of Veterans Services (KOVIS).

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to remove the contents of HB 2280 and insert the contents of HB 2273, as passed by the House, and HB 2274, as introduced.

[Note: The original contents of HB 2280, regarding emergency medical services authorized activities, were inserted into the Conference Committee report for HB 2039.]

*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

Background

HB 2274 (Occupational Licensing)

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Veterans and Military at the request of Representative Thompson.

House Committee on Veterans and Military

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Adjutant General's Department who stated the bill would remedy an oversight in legislation enacted in the 2024 Legislative Session that erroneously excluded current National Guard and Reserve members.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the State Board of Technical Professions. The testimony generally stated the bill may be overly broad in waiving licensing fees for any military spouse.

No other testimony was provided.

Senate Select Committee on Veterans Affairs

In the Senate Select Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the Adjutant General's Department and the Kansas Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), that was substantially similar to testimony provided in the House Committee hearing.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Knee Regulatory Research Center at West Virginia University. The representative explained the economic impact of waiving licensing fees for military service members and their spouses.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Select Committee amended the bill to add the provisions of SB 106, as amended by the Senate Select Committee, and SB 200, as introduced by Senators Alley and 38 others, to the provisions of HB 2274. [*Note: The Conference Committee did not retain these amendments.*]

HB 2273 (Definitions of Veteran)

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Veterans and Military at the request of a representative of KOVS.

House Committee on Veterans and Military

In the House Committee hearing, representatives of KOVS and the MOAA provided **proponent** testimony. The proponents generally stated the bill would ensure all persons who have been designated a veteran by an act of Congress would be so designated consistently throughout the Kansas statutes.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee adopted a technical amendment to fix an error in the bill's short title. [Note: The Conference Committee retained this amendment.]

Fiscal Information

HB 2274 (Occupational Licensure)

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2274, as introduced, the Board of Nursing states that enactment of the bill would not affect agency expenditures but could decrease revenues depending on the number of applicants the bill would affect; the Board is unable to estimate a fiscal effect. The Board of Veterinary Examiners states that enactment of HB 2274 could decrease revenues up to \$1,500 starting in FY 2026 because 15 military spouses could qualify to not pay the license fees.

The Kansas Real Estate Commission states that HB 2274 could reduce its fee fund revenues between \$40,000 and \$45,000 annually. To estimate the reduction, the agency used data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. It assumed that 7.5 percent of Kansas adults are veterans, and that 50.0 percent of those adults have a spouse. The Commission estimates that 3.75 percent of those spouses would apply for a real estate license and thus not have to pay the associated fees.

The Board of Barbering states that HB 2274 could affect agency expenditures and revenues. The agency may have to update some processes and revenues could be reduced depending on the number of military spouses that apply and renew licenses. However, the Board cannot estimate a precise fiscal effect.

The Kansas Dental Board states that it cannot estimate how many applicants would qualify for the fee waiver if HB 2274 were enacted; however, the Board estimates that any fiscal effect would be negligible. The Board of Examiners in Optometry indicates that enactment of the bill could have a negligible fiscal effect on agency operations. The Board states a small number of applicants have applied under the current statute. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment states that the bill would have a negligible effect on the revenues of the Bureau of Air and the Bureau of Water.

The Hearing Instruments Board of Examiners, the State Board of Technical Professions, the State Board of Pharmacy, the Board of Accountancy, the Abstracters' Board of Examiners, and the State Board of Mortuary Arts indicate that it is unknown how many additional applications would be received if the bill were enacted, which would reduce agency revenues, and therefore a fiscal effect cannot be estimated.

The State Board of Healing Arts, the Insurance Department, and the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board state that the bill would not have a fiscal effect. All agencies affected under the provisions of the bill have been asked for a fiscal note response and the Division of the Budget has received 16 out of 20 responses to date. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of HB 2274 is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

HB 2273 (Definitions of Veteran)

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2273, as introduced, KOVS, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, and Kansas Department of Revenue indicate enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect.

Military spouse; occupational licensing; licensing fee waiver; definitions; veterans; disabled veterans

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