

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 229

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Commerce

Brief*

SB 229, as amended, would require adoption of new occupational licenses and material changes to existing licenses by certain state agencies to be approved by the Legislature. The bill would also require agencies to annually report certain information to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations.

The Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, Board of Examiners in Optometry, Board of Nursing, Kansas Dental Board, State Board of Healing Arts, State Board of Pharmacy, and the State Board of Technical Professions would be exempt from the provisions of the bill.

For purposes of the bill, an “occupational license” would mean an exclusive authorization in law establishing the personal qualifications necessary to engage in an occupation or profession and any associated rules and regulations.

Legislative Review and Approval of Licenses

The bill would require any new occupational license or material change to an existing license adopted by an agency on or after July 1, 2025, to be approved by the Legislature by joint resolution, unless ratified by an enactment of a bill.

Before consideration of such a resolution, a standing committee of each chamber to which the subject matter of the

*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 <https://klrd.gov/>

license is customarily referred would be required to conduct a review of the proposed license, to include a review of a report prepared by the Kansas Legislative Research Department (KLRD). The KLRD report would be required to be prepared for the committee within two weeks of assignment and would include the following information:

- The necessity of such license for public health, safety, or welfare;
- Alternative, less-restrictive measures;
- Whether the licensing requirement is the least-restrictive means to achieve its purpose;
- Whether and how other states regulate the profession;
- The effect the license will have on job creation or retention; and
- An explanation of certain costs and benefits associated with the requirement.

Each committee would be required to submit a written recommendation for adoption or denial of such license to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate for consideration by the Legislature.

***Annual Agency Reports to the Joint Committee on
Administrative Rules and Regulations***

In September of each year, each agency would be required to submit an annual report to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations containing a list of each license the agency oversees. The list would be required to contain certain information, as specified by the bill, related to the rationale for and administration and regulation of each occupational license administered by the agency.

Background

The bill was introduced by Senate Committee on Commerce.

Senate Committee on Commerce

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of Americans for Prosperity Kansas and United WE. Proponents generally stated the bill would make the occupational licensing process more efficient by reducing institutional red tape and help move Kansas toward voluntary certification. Proponents also stated that the bill would increase workforce participation and economic growth.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the cities of Arkansas City and Winfield.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Secretary of State, who generally stated they have no opinion on the substance of the bill, but its implementation needs to be clarified.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by a representative of Kansas Grain and Feed Association and Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to:

- Clarify the bill would only effect new occupational licenses and material changes to existing occupational licenses;
- Remove a blanket exception for unspecified regulatory agencies for health care providers;

- Remove a requirement that the Legislature review existing occupational licensing requirements and terminate unreviewed licenses by July 1, 2030;
- Remove a limit on each occupational license of five years' duration unless reviewed and renewed by the Legislature;
- Exempt cities, counties, and unified governmental agencies from the provisions of the bill; and
- Remove certain requirements of the Revisor of Statutes.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, KLRD states that enactment of the bill would add an additional task for the Department but a fiscal impact cannot be estimated.

The Secretary of State indicates that enactment of the bill would require expenditures totaling \$225,000 from the State General Fund in FY 2026. This estimate includes salaries, wages, and fringe benefit costs for two FTE positions of an attorney (\$130,000) and a paralegal (\$80,000), and other operating expenditures.

Legislative Administrative Services estimates enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on the Legislature's budget.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

Commerce; occupational licensing; labor; employment; rules and regulations