

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 Siefgreid seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2009.

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