

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Barnett at 1:30 p.m. on March 5, 2009, in Room 136-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except Senator Haley who was absent.

Committee staff present:

Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Doug Taylor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Kelly Navinsky-Wenzl, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jan Lunn, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Phyllis Gilmore, Executive Director, Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board

Others attending:

See attached list.

Doug Taylor briefed those attending on **HB 2162 - Marriage and family therapists educational requirements and psychologists application fees** which would amend the licensing requirements for marriage and family therapists in Kansas by deleting the requirement of completing a program of study with standards consistent with those of the state universities in Kansas. The bill also would increase the statutory maximum the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board is permitted to charge for the application fee for the licensure of a psychologist from \$150 to \$225 and would reduce the statutory maximum of the original license fee from \$200 to \$150. The bill would become effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Senator Barnett opened the hearing on **HB 2162** and recognized Phyllis Gilmore who testified in support of the legislation (Attachment 1). The first change in the bill would allow applicants who have not had a 500-hour practicum to receive a Kansas license after completion of additional, direct-client contact hours. The second change in the bill relates to licensing fees. Currently, a Licensed Psychology (LP) fee is: \$100 application fee and \$175 original license fee for a total of \$275. The change is to charge \$225 for an application fee and to charge an original license fee of \$50 for a total of \$275. There is no net increase in the total amount paid. Ms. Gilmore indicated that with a low application fee, applicants are allowed to sit for the examination without intent to come to Kansas to practice; the change in fee structure may positively impact

Considerable discussion ensued relative to the Senate Rules and Regulation Committee, Kansas criteria for licensure compared to national criteria, unlawful delegation of authority, etc. Discussion was also heard related to delineation of scope of practice, qualifications for licensure, and regulations which enact the larger structure of an agency/entity.

It was the consensus of the committee that all affected parties and the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board require an opportunity to respond to the concerns discussed at the meeting today. Senator Barnett requested that Terri Weber, legislative research department, furnish the testimony that was heard at the Senate Rules and Regulations Committee as well as the Rules and Regulations themselves.

Senator Barnett indicated Public Health and Welfare Committee would return to **HB 2162** at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:53pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2009.