

STATE OF KANSAS



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SECURITY

February 12, 2013

Honorable Chairperson Kasha Kelley,  
and members of the House Committee on Education

HB 2181

The legislature and the state licensing boards share a common goal, to protect the public through enforcement of standards for licensure and ongoing competence. With a shortage of qualified personnel and the increasing public demand for protection, there is a trend toward uniformity among licensing boards. Licensing boards strive to ensure a process that protects the legal rights and privileges of individuals. Maintaining this balance might appear bureaucratic and cumbersome; however, the end result is improved services.

In the House Committee on Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security we had two bills introduced, HB 2077 and HB 2078. These bills would allow licensing bodies to accept education, training, or service completed in military service by the applicant towards the qualifications to receive the license.


These bills allowed the board to waive the requirement of graduation from an approved school if the applicant has attained a passing score on the licensure exam. These bills also allow a licensing body to issue a temporary permit for a limited period of time to allow the military service member to lawfully practice the occupation while completing specific requirements that are required for licensure and that were not required in the state, district, or territory of the United States in which the military service member was licensed previously.

However, the licensing body has the responsibility to determine that the education, training, or service is substantially equivalent to the standards required for licensure. HB 2181 would authorize a licensing body to waive educational requirements for certification or licensure if the applicant is a former member of the military and provides satisfactory evidence of completion of a distance education course. To qualify for the waiver, the distance education course must be provided by an accredited

educational institution and substantially equivalent to the educational standards required for certification or licensure in Kansas.

An applicant, when contacting a licensing board, could request the additional requirements and take the necessary courses while still in the military. . Many of the licensing bodies currently allow online courses. This bill would put this process in the statute books, protecting both the board and the applicant.

Respectfully,



Representative Mario Goico