

Health and Human Services Committee
January 31, 2018
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2496
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Executive Administrator

Good Afternoon Chairman Hawkins and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Carol Moreland, Executive Administrator of the Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN). I am here to provide testimony for HB 2496 with the following areas of concern from the Board of Nursing.

The Board of Nursing was developed in 1913. The mission of the Board of Nursing is to assure the citizens of Kansas safe and competent practice by nurses and mental health technicians through licensure and regulations of Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, four roles of Advance Practice Registered Nurses, and Licensed Mental Health Technicians. There are eleven Board members appointed by the Governor. KSBN is the largest health care fee funded board with approximately 72,000 active licensees and receives no state general funds.

KSBN licenses RNs and LPNs to practice nursing within Kansas. Presently there are 58,034 RNs and 10,007 LPNs licensed in Kansas. If nurses licensed in Kansas wish to practice nursing in another state they must get licensed in that state. The nurse licensure compact (NLC) is the licensure model that allows registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs) to have one multistate license, with the privilege to practice in the home state and in other NLC states physically, electronically, and/or telephonically. There are presently 29 states that are part of the NLC. Kansas is not currently in the NLC. Nurses seeking licensure in any state that is part of the NLC must meet eleven uniform licensure requirements. HB 2496 would allow Kansas to join the NLC and issue multi-state licenses for RNs and LPNs.

HB 2496 is a standard NLC model legislation template that many of the 29 states utilized as a foundation for further developing state-specific bill language. The Board of Nursing was not provided the opportunity to review HB 2496 and give feedback before it was introduced. As it is currently drafted, it lacks information specific to Kansas that we request be included in the bill to address the following areas:

1. Revenue loss: If Kansas joins the NLC, there are significant fiscal and areas of operational impacts for the Board of Nursing. The Board of Nursing is a fee funded agency. Presently the Board of Nursing receives revenue from licensees who reside within the Kansas borders as well as those outside our borders who want to practice nursing within Kansas. If Kansas were to join the NLC, the Board of Nursing will only receive revenues derived from licensees who reside within Kansas. It is estimated the Board of Nursing will lose \$367,170.00 from nurses who reside within the 29 states that are members of the NLC and are presently licensed in Kansas. This revenue loss will increase as more states join the NLC. It is estimated the recurring revenue loss of licensees' fees will be \$534,120.00 annually.
2. Implementation costs: If Kansas joins the NLC, there are significant implementation costs. There is an annual membership fee to join the NLC. Communication costs include notification to licensees, employers, permanent residence verification and stakeholder meetings.

Communication will be very important so all nurses, employers and the public are aware of the changes and how it will impact them. Our current licensing information system will need to be enhanced and revised to articulate with the compact national data system. The cost included in our fiscal impact note is an estimated enhancement cost based on other states that use the same licensure system and have joined the NLC. There will be a recurring annual maintenance cost. Data integrity costs include the need for two part-time temporary staff (without benefits) to review existing information, cleanse any inconsistent or outdated information within our database that encompasses over 125,000+ records, change records after review from single to multistate licenses, process criminal history reports, data entry of permanent residence and document scanning. We will need an additional investigator due to a projected increase in number of investigations as compact nurses transition in and out of Kansas. The estimated cost for this salary is \$76,046.00 (with benefits) annually. With the agency office at maximum occupancy, we will need to do some remodeling in our agency to accommodate the extra staff. This remodeling cost has been submitted for cost estimates, but is currently unknown. The estimated implementation expenditures will be \$332,546.00, excluding any needed remodeling. The Board of Nursing is applying for one-time grant funds from our national organization that administers the NLC to cover at least a portion of all the implementation and data integrity costs, but receipt of soft funding is always uncertain. The Board of Nursing will request an increase in our appropriations to cover some or all the implementation costs if grant funds are not available. Even with a grant, there will need to be a change in appropriations for the recurring costs of \$107,046.00 to cover annual member fee, annual maintenance agreement and the additional investigator.

3. Statutory caps on licensure fees: The Board of Nursing is close to or at the statutory caps on licensure fees for RN and LPN (initial, endorsement and biennial renewal) per K.S.A. 65-1118. The nursing licensure fees have not been raised for several years. Renewal licensure fees for RNs and LPNs were decreased in 2015 and are generally lower than most of the other states. The Board of Nursing has a history of fiscal accountability by keeping the licensure fees as low as possible for the licensee while maintaining the financial stability of the agency. The Board of Nursing will need to determine the amount licensure fees must be raised to make up the initial and recurring revenue loss if Kansas joins the NLC. Implicit in that decision is consideration for the additional financial burden placed on nurses, particularly rural nurses who do not earn high salaries.
4. Implementation timeline: The Board of Nursing will need to extend the implementation timeline on the bill to ensure that all operational and IT changes can occur without major disruptions to the licensure and regulatory processes for nurse. Major disruptions in licensure or discipline would, of course, negatively impact health service provision quality and access. The Board of Nursing has significant concerns that our historically stellar service would deteriorate should the state level IT consolidation occur and apply to the Board in the near future. We will need to maintain experienced IT staff within our agency to ensure implementation proceeds smoothly. Inadequate time or inadequate IT staff to implement smoothly can negatively impact nurses, employers and most importantly, the citizens of Kansas.

The Board of Nursing voted in December 2017 to proceed with joining the compact and was planning on introducing legislation in January 2019 after they carefully examined the significant fiscal and operational impact. The Board of Nursing has scheduled a special Board meeting on February 1, 2018 to discuss in detail the above information and will be submitting amendments to HB 2496 that address their concerns. The board respectfully asks that the Board be allowed to bring amendments forward after their special Board meeting. Thank you for your time and consideration and I will stand for questions.

State Licensing Fees							
State	Renewal	Renewal Length	Endorsement	Initial	Reinstatement	Compact	Temp Permit
California RN Board	\$190.00	2	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$280.00	NO	\$50.00
Arizona	\$160.00	4	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$50 - \$350	eNLC	no charge
California BVNPT	\$155.00	2	\$75.00	\$150.00	\$230- \$580	NO	
DC	\$145.00	2	\$230.00	\$187.00	\$230.00	NO	
Vermont	\$140.00	2	\$150.00	\$60.00	\$140 + late fee	NO	\$25.00
Maryland	\$136.00	2	\$100.00	\$100.00		eNLC	
Rhode Island	\$135.00	2	LPN \$45 RN \$135	LPN \$45 RN \$135		NLC	
Michigan	\$123.60	2	\$54.00	\$54.54	unknown	NO	
Nebraska	\$123.00	2	\$123.00	\$123.00	\$110.00	eNLC	
North Dakota	\$120.00	2	\$160.00	\$130.00	LPN \$160 RN \$170	eNLC	
Massachusetts	\$120.00	2	\$275.00	\$250.00		NO	
New Jersey	\$120.00	2	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$225/\$345	NO	\$140.00
Tennessee	\$110.00	2	\$115.00	\$100/\$110	\$200.00	eNLC	
Connecticut	\$110.00	1	\$180.00	\$180.00	\$180.00	NO	
New Mexico	\$110.00	2	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$200.00	NLC	
Arkansas	\$100.00	2	\$125.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	eNLC	\$30.00
Mississippi	\$100.00	2	PN - \$60 RN - \$100	PN - \$60 RN - \$100		eNLC	
Montana	\$100.00	2	\$200.00	\$100.00		eNLC	
Nevada	\$100.00	2	LPN \$95 RN \$105	LPN \$90 RN \$100	\$200.00	NO	
North Carolina	\$100.00	2	\$150.00	\$75.00	\$100/\$180	eNLC	
Oregon	\$100.00	2	\$204.00	\$169.00	\$264.00	NO	
Iowa	\$99.00	3	\$119.00	\$93.00	\$175.00	eNLC	
Idaho	\$90.00	2	up to \$150, \$200	up to \$150, \$200	\$125.00	eNLC	
South Dakota	\$90.00	2	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$140.00	eNLC	\$25.00
Wisconsin	\$86.00	2	\$82.00	\$75.00	\$111.00	NLC	\$10.00
Colorado	\$85.00	2	\$43.00	\$88.00	\$179.00	NLC	
Minnesota	\$85.00	2	\$105.00	\$105.00		NO	
Guam	\$80.00	2	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$125.00	NO	\$25.00
Louisiana RN	\$80.00	1	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	NO	\$100.00
New Hampshire	\$80.00	2	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	eNLC	\$20.00
Maine	\$75.00	2	\$50, \$75	\$50, \$75	\$60, \$85	eNLC	
Alabama	\$75.00	2	\$85.00	\$85.00	\$150.00	NO	\$50.00
Florida	\$75.00	2	\$110.00	\$100.00	\$130 - \$210	eNLC	
Oklahoma	\$75.00	2	\$125.00	\$85.00	\$115.00	eNLC	
South Carolina	\$75.00	2	\$100.00	\$90.00	\$110.00	eNLC	\$10.00
New York	\$73.00	3	\$143.00	\$143.00		NO	\$35.00
Pennsylvania	\$65.00	2	\$100.00	\$135.00	email	NO	\$35.00
Texas	\$65.00	2	\$186.00	\$100.00	PN \$52/\$62 RN \$75/\$85	eNLC	
Georgia	\$65.00	2	\$75.00	\$40.00	\$90.00	eNLC	
Kentucky	\$65.00	1	\$165.00	\$125.00	\$135.00	eNLC	
Ohio	\$65.00	2	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$100, \$135, \$185	NO	
Washington	\$65.00	1	\$85, \$120	\$85, \$120	\$70, \$130	NO	
West Virginia RN	\$65.00	1	\$100.00	\$70.00	\$115.00	eNLC	\$25.00
Missouri	\$60.00	2	PN - \$51 RN - \$55	PN - \$41 RN - \$45	PN - \$102 RN - \$110	eNLC	
Louisiana PN	\$60.00	1	\$135.00	\$100.00	\$130.00	NO	
Utah	\$58.00	2	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$108.00	eNLC	
Kansas	\$55.00	2	\$50, \$75	\$50, \$75	\$40.00	eNLC	\$10.00
Indiana	\$50.00	2	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	NO	\$10.00
West Virginia PN	\$50.00	1	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$70.00	NO	\$25, \$35, \$50
Alaska		2	\$215.00	\$215.00	\$265.00	NO	\$50.00
Delaware		2	\$141.00	\$141.00	renewal fee +50%	eNLC	\$40.00
Hawaii		2	\$166 - \$234	\$40 + \$36	email	NO	
Illinois		2	\$50.00	\$98.00		NO	\$25.00
Virgin Islands		2				NO	
Virginia		2				eNLC	
Wyoming		2	\$180, \$195	\$190.00	\$135.00	eNLC	

KSBN Fee History

(Professional Nurse)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Application for license by endorsement to Kansas	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Application for license by examination	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Biennial renewal of license	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$55.00
(Practical Nurses)							
Application for license by endorsement to Kansas	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Application for license by examination	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Biennial renewal of license	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$55.00