

January 30, 2018

The Honorable Vicki Schmidt, Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare  
Statehouse, Room 441-E  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Schmidt:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for SB 312 by Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 312 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 312 would add “dental therapists” to the list of licensees under the Kansas Dental Practices Act beginning July 1, 2020. To practice as a dental therapist, a person would be required to have the following qualifications:

1. Be a licensed dental hygienist who is either a graduate of a dental therapist education program approved by the Board;
2. Pass a comprehensive, competency-based clinical examination that is approved by the Board and administered independently of an institution which provides registered dental practitioner education;
3. Have 500 hours of clinical training; and
4. Obtain a policy of professional liability insurance and show proof of the insurance as required by rules and regulations.

The Board would be required to adopt rules and regulations regarding the licensure of dental therapists. A person would be authorized to practice as a dental therapist if the person meets the qualifications specified in the bill, works under the direct or general supervision of a dentist licensed in Kansas in accordance with a written supervising agreement, and is licensed by the Board. Supervising dentists would be limited to supervising no more than three dental therapists. A supervising dentist must be either employed by an indigent health care clinic or enrolled as a Medicaid provider. The bill would define “direct supervision” and “general supervision” and lists the specific services that may be performed under each type of supervision. The bill would also

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specify the terms and conditions for which a dentist or dental therapist's license may be suspended or revoked. The bill also makes several amendments throughout the Dental Practices Act relating to references to dental therapists and the practice of dental therapy.

The Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Dental Board would be required to submit a joint report to the 2030 Legislature on the effects of the bill on access to dental care in rural Kansas.

The bill would permit the Board to collect fees related to the licensure of dental therapists. The maximum limit for these fees would include \$25 for certificates; \$200 for biennial license renewals; \$150 for examinations; and \$100 for subsequent examinations.

The bill would add dental therapy services to the list of services the Kansas Department of Health and Environment may provide as a charitable health care provider.

The Kansas Dental Board would receive additional revenue from new dental therapist fees. The precise fiscal effect on revenue cannot be estimated, as the number of dental therapists who would become licensed with the Board is unknown. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment indicates that bill would have no fiscal effect on the agency. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 312 is not reflected in *The FY 2019 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Sullivan", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Shawn Sullivan,  
Director of the Budget

cc: Charity Carlat, Dental Board  
Dan Thimmesch, Health & Environment