

SESSION OF 2022

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2734**

As Recommended by House Committee on  
Health and Human Services

**Brief\***

HB 2734 would amend licensure requirements for certain professions licensed by the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (Board).

The bill would add to the list of requirements for licensure as a specialist clinical social worker an allowance for applicants who complete additional postgraduate supervised experience as determined by the Board in lieu of completing a graduate level supervised clinical practicum, as required by continuing law.

The bill would allow a master social worker, specialist clinical social worker, professional counselor, clinical professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, clinical marriage and family therapist, master's level psychologist, clinical psychotherapist, or psychologist currently licensed in Kansas to be eligible to take a Board-approved examination for licensure as an addiction counselor.

The bill would also make technical amendments.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the Committee on Appropriations at the request of the Board. [Note: A similar bill, SB 387, was introduced in the House. HB 2734 contains

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\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

language identical to SB 387, as amended by the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare.]

### ***House Committee on Health and Human Services***

In the House Committee hearing, a representative of the Board provided **proponent** testimony, stating the bill would restore a provision removed by 2021 Senate Sub. for HB 2208 that allowed the Board to evaluate applicants to become a licensed specialist clinical social worker who had completed a different form of practicum. The representative stated the bill would allow current master's level or clinical level practitioners the flexibility to use their qualifications to seek licensure to become a licensed addiction counselor. A representative of Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas also provided proponent testimony, stating the bill would help address workforce shortages by lessening the burden on qualified clinical staff seeking licensure.

Written-only proponent testimony was submitted by a representative of EmberHope Youthville.

No other testimony was provided.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the budget on the bill, the Board indicates certain provisions would be technical in nature while others would increase revenue and expenditures related to additional individuals seeking licensure. The Board indicates 10 percent of any new revenue produced by enactment of the bill would be remitted to the State General Fund, and the remaining amount would be credited to the Board in accordance with current law. The Board states it is unable to determine the number of individuals who may seek licensure under the provisions of the bill, so it could not estimate any revenues and expenditures that may result from the bill's enactment.

However, the Board indicates any fiscal effect of expenditures from additional staff time spent reviewing and processing applications, licenses, continuing education, and rules and regulations could be absorbed within the agency's existing resources. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill's enactment is not reflected in *The FY 2023 Governor's Budget Report*.

Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board; licensure; clinical social worker; psychologist