

Testimony concerning HB 2745
House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
Presented by Alexandra Blasi
February 19, 2024

Chairman Tarwater and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas State Board of Pharmacy respectfully submits this neutral testimony on HB 2745. The Board strongly supports minimizing barriers to registration and licensure for active-duty military, veterans, and military spouses, and Board staff have worked diligently to comply with K.S.A. 48-3406.

The Board asks the maker of HB 2745 and the Committee to consider the following questions that may not be addressed, are unclear, or which could impose an unintentional burden on state agencies.

New subsection (u) indicates: “applicants who are military spouses of active military service members shall be exempt from **all fees** assessed by any licensing body including application, licensing, registration, certification or permit fees.”

1. Does the above language exemption of fees for all military spouse applications, including an individual and a facility (i.e., pharmacist vs pharmacy)? Though the financial impact of waiving application fees for a pharmacy technician (\$20) or a pharmacist (\$125) may be minimal, the impact of a waiving an application fee for a pharmacy (\$150) or a wholesale distributor (\$350) could be more significant.
2. Does the above language require exemption of fees for renewal applications? The Board understands and supports waiving an initial application fee for a military spouse. However, once the license has been issued and established, the Board is unclear why any individual should be exempt from annual or biannual licensure renewal fees. While the Board could absorb the approximate \$1,090 in annual revenues if the bill is limited to initial individual applications, there could be much more substantial revenue consequences if this exemption also applies to annual renewal applications.
3. Is an agency still allowed to charge the KBI background check fee to an applicant? If the Board is not allowed to collect the KBI background check fee from the applicant, which is 100% revenue pass-through to KBI, this could impact revenue and expenditures as the Board will still be required to conduct the background check and pay the fee. KBI has announced the fee will be \$57 per person, effective July 1, 2024.
4. Is the Board accurately interpreting that these fee exemptions shall not apply to active-duty military servicemembers?

In FY 2023, the Board received 18 initial applications from active-duty military and 22 from spouses.

Respectfully submitted.