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To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: March 12, 2024
Subject: HB 2623 – Updating the veterans claims assistance program to include references to veterans affairs medical centers and cross-accreditation requirements

House Bill 2623 amends K.S.A. 73-1234 to update the veterans claims assistance program to include veterans affairs medical centers and cross-accreditation requirements.

Subsection (e) removes requires that training activities for veterans claims assistance representatives shall be conducted by qualified trainers.

Subsection (f)(2)(A) states that the person to be cross-accredited shall provide proof to the deputy director of veterans services that such person has successfully completed the federal department of veterans affairs office training, responsibility, involvement and preparation of claims, otherwise known as the TRIP course, or its equivalent.

Subsections (f)(3)(A) and (f)(3)(B) require that the veterans claims assistance program must agree to participate in one-stop veterans service centers at the federal department of veterans affairs regional office or the veterans affairs medical center in Wichita and each veterans affairs medical center in Topeka and Leavenworth.

Subsection (f)(7) requires that the veterans claims assistance program have staff present centers at the federal department of veterans affairs regional office or the veterans affairs medical center in Wichita and each veterans affairs medical center in Topeka and Leavenworth.

This bill will take effect on July 1, 2024, upon publication in the statute book.

The House made no amendments to HB 2623 and passed the bill 119-0 on February 22, 2024