

SESSION OF 2023

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2375

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Education

Brief*

HB 2375 would create a new type of temporary license for certain applicants who have graduated from a social work program, including an online social work program, that is in candidacy from a national accrediting body recognized by the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB).

Temporary Candidacy Baccalaureate License

The bill would authorize the BSRB to issue a temporary license for social work applicants who have:

- Received a baccalaureate degree from a social work program, including an online program, that is in candidacy status from an accrediting body;
- Passed an examination approved by the BSRB for the purpose of such license;
- Submitted a completed, signed application in the manner and form provided by the BSRB;
- Satisfied the BSRB that the applicant merits the public trust; and
- Paid the fee set by the BSRB.

*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>

The bill would apply to, but not be limited to, the online baccalaureate social work program at the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas.

The bill would set the expiration date of the license at the end of a 24-month period following the license's effective date. The license would not be renewable, except upon a showing by the applicant that the social work program remains in candidacy status.

The bill would require the licensee to represent themselves as a temporary candidacy baccalaureate social worker, using the credentials LBSW. The bill would require the individual to practice under supervision but would not require continuing education.

The bill would authorize the applicant to receive a permanent license upon the accreditation of the candidacy program and the payment of the appropriate fee. The bill would require the BSRB to immediately revoke the temporary license, and notify the licensee of such revocation, if the accrediting body does not grant accreditation of the program in candidacy status.

Temporary Candidacy Masters License

The bill would authorize a temporary license for social work applicants who have:

- Received a master's degree from a social work program, including an online program, that is in candidacy status from an accrediting body;
- Passed an examination approved by the BSRB for the purpose of such license;
- Submitted a completed, signed application in the manner and form provided by the BSRB;

- Satisfied the BSRB that the applicant merits the public trust; and
- Paid the fee set by the BSRB.

The bill would apply to, but not be limited to, the online masters of social work program at the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas.

The bill would set the expiration date of the license at the end of a 24-month period following the license's effective date. The license would not be renewable, except upon a showing by the applicant that the social work program remains in candidacy status.

The bill would require the licensee to represent themselves as a temporary candidacy baccalaureate social worker, using the credentials LMSW. The bill would require the individual to practice under supervision but would not require continuing education.

The bill would authorize the applicant to receive a permanent license upon the accreditation of the candidacy program and the payment of the appropriate fee. The bill would require the BSRB to immediately revoke the temporary license, and notify the licensee of such revocation, if the accrediting body does not grant accreditation of the program in candidacy status.

Temporary Candidacy License Fees

The bill would authorize the BSRB to set a maximum fee of \$75 for the initial issuance, or extension of such license, for a baccalaureate social worker, master social worker, or a social work specialty.

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Higher Education Budget at the request of Representative Wasinger.

House Committee on Higher Education Budget

In the House Committee hearing on the bill, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Wasinger, the Executive Director of the BSRB, and the President of the Kansas Independent College Association. The proponents stated the bill would allow graduates of programs in candidacy with an accrediting body, including online programs, to apply for temporary licensure until the program in candidacy is accredited. Written-only testimony was provided by the Program Director of the Social Work Department at University of Saint Mary.

No other testimony was provided.

Senate Committee on Education

In the Senate Committee hearing on the bill, **proponent** testimony was provided by the Executive Director of the BSRB, the President of the Kansas Independent College Association, and the Program Director of the Social Work Department at University of Saint Mary. Proponents testified generally that the bill would alleviate workforce concerns by allowing social work programs that are in temporary candidacy to recruit and train potential future social workers.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to make it effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the BSRB indicates the new fee would increase revenues to the BSRB Fee Fund by \$500, of which \$50 would be remitted to the State General Fund. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report.

Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board; BSRB; social work; online program; licensure; temporary licensure