

SESSION OF 2009

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2343**

As Recommended by House Committee on  
Health and Human Services

**Brief\***

HB 2343 would amend the qualifications for licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and registered professional nurses (RNs) in the Nurse Practice Act. The bill would delete the requirement that applicants for licensure as either an LPN or RN be high school graduates.

As provided in current law, the Board may, if it determines an applicant's qualifications are deficient in terms of educational experience, require those applicants to fulfill remedial or other requirements prior to being licensed.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Appropriations. Proponents of the bill at the Committee hearing included the Kansas State Board of Nursing (Board) and the Kansas State Nurses Association. The Board representative testified that recently there has been an increase in the number of nursing school graduates who were home schooled and did not receive a high school diploma or GED. The representative further stated that the Board believes the high school graduation requirement is no longer needed as a qualification for licensure as: schools of nursing have an admission procedure which includes the review of ACT or SAT scores, entrance exams, and interviews with applicants; the Board regulates nursing schools and surveys are conducted on a regular basis; and according to a National Council on State

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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>

Boards of Nursing 2007 report, nineteen states do not require a high school graduation or its equivalent for licensure. A representative of the Kansas Department of Education was present at the hearing and invited to provide general comment on home school requirements, including registration of students.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget states that the Kansas State Board of Nursing indicates passage of the bill would have no fiscal effect on agency operations.