

Testimony Regarding HB 2422

House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

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I want to thank the committee for the opportunity to appear here today and present supportive and informational testimony on HB 2422. Our agency has and is experiencing a recruitment and retention issue across many of the different positions we have. One of those positions is our boiler inspector positions, with one position being open for a year now. There are about a dozen Insurance companies in Kansas that offer boiler inspections as part of their policy services and we are always competing with the Insurance industry for qualified boiler inspectors. We have received applications from individuals with HVAC experience and other mechanical type backgrounds but their experience does not meet the current qualifications set in statute. We believe that removing the current experience and education requirements from statute and allowing the agency to work with Department of Administration on creating the positions descriptions would greatly help us fill our vacant positions in the future. The current statutory requirements were set in the 1970's and 1990's and allow for no flexibility in the State's current hiring practices. Removing the requirements from statute would allow our agency to possibly start an apprentice program with one or more of the State's vocational schools that have HVAC programs and to create an entry level boiler inspector position where we can give someone with a HVAC or mechanical background the on the job training and education to meet the qualifications to be a boiler inspector.