

Written-Only Proponent Testimony
HB 2070 – enacting the dietitian compact to provide interstate practice privileges
House Health & Human Services Committee

February 5, 2025

Chairman Carpenter and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services an opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 2070. HB 2070 would enact the Dietitian compact to allow Kansas to participate in interstate practice privileges. A compact privilege is legal authorization for a Dietitian to practice in a state where they are not licensed. A Dietitian must hold an active and unencumbered license in their home state and meet additional eligibility criteria to be eligible for the compact privilege. Once they meet the requirements described in the compact, a Dietitian can work in Kansas with the license from the other state that also participates in the compact. Kansas as well as North Dakota, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Kentucky, Indiana, South Carolina, Rhode Island, New Hampshire are considering legislation and Nebraska, Ohio, Tennessee, and Alabama have passed compact legislation. Dietitians are one of seven professions licensed by Kansas Department for Aging & Disability Services (KDADS) Health Occupations Credentialing.

Currently, a person holding a Kansas Dietitian license must renew every two years in Kansas, regardless of the Dietitian's physical location. This compact bill would remove that requirement if their residing state is part of the compact.

Kansas has 1,635 active, licensed Dietitians. Of that number, 810 have an out of state address. When those Dietitians' licenses come up for renewal, under the compact, those individuals would renew in their residing state. They would not have to be licensed in Kansas or seek a reciprocity license in Kansas. This will decrease KDADS license revenue over 2 years by \$109,350. The current fee is \$135 due biannually on the license issue date.

In 2024, KDADS had 161 reciprocity applications for Dietitians with out of state addresses. With the reciprocity fee of \$140, KDADS would lose \$22,540 annually.

While KDADS loses revenue from licenses under HB 2070, we support the compact as an efficient way for employers in Kansas that need licensed Dietitians to have access to Dietitians from other states. At the same time, Dietitians in Kansas also will have flexibility to work in other states without needing to pay for licenses in those states. HB 2070 will reduce barriers to license portability and make it easier for Dietitians to move between states. This is better for Kansans that seek training and professional licensure as a Dietitian.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information and feel free to reach out if you have questions.

Respectfully,

Lacey Hunter
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Kansas Department for Aging & Disability Services