

House Committee on Veterans

Neutral Testimony on HB 2274 by Kansas State Board of
Technical Professions

Chairperson Mike Thompson and members of the Committee:

Good morning. I am Larry Karns, Executive Director of the Board of Technical Professions . Our agency licenses engineers, architects, geologists and others to practice their professions in Kansas. These professionals are scattered across the country, working remotely, with more that two-thirds living out-of-state. They, unlike a barber or school teacher, are not required to live or be present in a state to work and to be licensed it that state.

KSA 48-3406, was modified in 2024,. It waives license fees for military spouses in certain circumstances. The statute defines "Applicant " as:

"(1) (a) A military spouse or military servicemember who resides or plans to reside in this state due to the assigned military station of the individual or the individual's spouse;"

Subsection (9)(u)) is the section sought to be modified by HB 2274. That section currently states: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, applicants who are military spouses of "active" military service members shall be exempt from all fees assessed by any licensing body..." The bill would remove the word "active".

If adopted the military spouse would not be required to be married to an "active" member of the armed services. Additionally, it would appear, for waiver of Kansas licensing fees to no longer require presence in Kansas due to an assigned military station of the service member. An individual who is not an active member of the military would not be in Kansas due to an assigned military station. This seemingly simple change removes any nexus between the applicant and Kansas. As proposed, anyone who is married to a past or present military member, anywhere in the country, not living or intending to move to Kansas, would be exempt from licensing fees in Kansas.

The number of individuals who would be exempted is unknown. I would be please to respond to questions.