

**SECOND CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
SENATE BILL NO. 30**

As Agreed to February 9, 2026

Brief*

SB 30 would require adoption of new occupational licenses and material changes to existing licenses by certain state Executive Branch agencies to be approved by the Legislature. The bill would also require such agencies to annually report certain information to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations (JCARR).

The Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, Board of Examiners in Optometry, Board of Nursing, Kansas Dental Board, State Board of Healing Arts, and State Board of Pharmacy would be exempt from the provisions of the bill.

For purposes of the bill, an “occupational license” would mean an exclusive authorization in law establishing the personal qualifications necessary to engage in an occupation or profession and any associated rules and regulations.

Legislative Review and Approval of Licenses

The bill would require any new occupational license or material change to an existing license proposed for adoption by an applicable agency on or after January 1, 2026, to be ratified by the enactment of a bill.

Before consideration of such a bill, a standing committee of each chamber to which the subject matter of the license is customarily referred would be required to conduct a review of the proposed requirements, which would include reviewing a report prepared by the Kansas Legislative Research Department (KLRD) including the following information:

- An analysis and explanation by the agency of the necessity of such proposal for public health, safety, or welfare;
- An examination by the agency of alternative, less-restrictive measures;
- An analysis by the agency as to whether the licensing requirement is the least-restrictive means to achieve its stated purpose;

*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

- A ranking by KLRD of the proposal on a scale of relative restrictiveness of regulatory measures;
- An examination by KLRD as to whether and how other states regulate the profession; and
- An examination by the agency of certain costs and benefits associated with the requirements and the effect it will have on job creation or retention.

The bill would require the agency to submit the necessary information in a written proposal to KLRD, which would prepare and submit the final report to the committee within two weeks of assignment.

Each committee would be required to submit a written recommendation for adoption or denial of such requirements to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate for consideration by the Legislature.

Annual Agency Reports to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations

In September of each year, each applicable agency would be required to submit an annual report to the JCARR containing a list of each license the agency oversees. The list would be required to contain certain information, as specified by the bill, related to the rationale for and administration and regulation of each occupational license administered by the agency.

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

Conference Committee Action

The Second Conference Committee agreed to remove the contents of SB 30 and to insert the contents of SB 229, as amended by the Senate Committee on Commerce, regarding legislative approval of certain occupational licenses, and to include the following amendments:

- Clarifying that the standing committee chairperson would request KLRD to conduct the review and prepare the written report;
- Clarifying that the provisions of the bill would only apply to Executive Branch agencies;
- Requiring agencies to submit a written proposal to KLRD and distinguishing between the agency and KLRD as the sources of certain information required to be submitted;
- Requiring adoption of new requirements to be ratified by enactment of a bill;
- Applying the requirements to any change proposed on or after January 1, 2026;
- Changing the bill's effective date to be upon publication in the *Kansas Register*; and
- Making technical and conforming changes.

[*Note:* The contents of SB 30, requiring employees of the Department of Labor with access to federal tax information to undergo criminal record checks and amending law concerning what criminal history record information may be released to certain agencies, were enacted in 2025 by HB 2342.]

Background

SB 229 (Legislature Approval of Certain Occupational Licenses)

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Commerce at the request of Senator Blew on behalf of a representative of Catalyst.

Senate Committee on Commerce

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of Americans for Prosperity Kansas and United WE. The proponents generally stated the bill would make the occupational licensing process more efficient by reducing institutional red tape and help move Kansas toward voluntary certification. The proponents also stated the bill would increase workforce participation and economic growth.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the cities of Arkansas City and Winfield.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Secretary of State, who generally stated they have no opinion on the substance of the bill, but its implementation needs to be clarified.

Written-only **opponent** testimony was provided by a representative of Kansas Grain and Feed Association and Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to:

- Clarify the bill would only affect new occupational licenses and material changes to existing occupational licenses;
- Remove a blanket exception for unspecified regulatory agencies for health care providers;
- Remove a requirement that the Legislature review existing occupational licensing requirements and terminate unreviewed licenses by July 1, 2030;
- Remove a limit on each occupational license of five years' duration unless reviewed and renewed by the Legislature;
- Exempt cities, counties, and unified governmental agencies from the provisions of the bill; and

- Remove certain requirements of the Revisor of Statutes.

[*Note:* The second Conference Committee retained these amendments.]

Fiscal Information

SB 229 (Legislature Approval of Certain Occupational Licenses)

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on SB 229, as introduced, KLRD states that enactment of the bill would add an additional task for the Department but a fiscal impact cannot be estimated. Legislative Administrative Services estimates enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on the Legislature's budget.

The Secretary of State indicates that enactment of SB 229, as amended by the Senate Committee, would have no fiscal effect on the agency.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

Occupational licensing; labor; employment; rules and regulations

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