

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2274

As Amended by Senate Select Committee on
Veterans Affairs

Brief*

HB 2274, as amended, would amend law to waive licensing fees for military spouses when the spouse's service member is not considered active duty, would amend law to allow the issuance of identification (ID) cards to homeless veterans, and would designate Kansas as a Purple Heart State and August 7 of each year as Purple Heart Day.

Occupational Licensing

The bill would amend the definition of "complete application" in law governing occupational licensing and waiver of licensing fees to clarify military spouses would be eligible for such waiver even if the spouse's service member is not considered active duty.

Homeless Veteran IDs

The bill would allow any person who is a veteran and is homeless to apply for and be issued a non-driver ID without providing an address of principal residence. The bill would provide that non-driver IDs obtained by a homeless veteran do not expire.

*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 <https://klrd.gov/>

Letters or Certificates Establishing Veteran Status

The bill would provide the Division of Vehicles, in addition to any documents proving identity and residency in Kansas accepted for an application for an ID, could accept a letter or certificate verifying the applicant resides at or receives services from any of the following entities:

- The Kansas Office of Veterans Services (KOVIS);
- The Kansas Soldiers' Home;
- The Kansas Veterans' Home;
- Any veterans services medical center located in Kansas;
- Any jail or correctional facility; or
- Any nonprofit organization located in Kansas for the provision of services for the homeless.

If submitting letters or certificates as described above, the bill would require the applicant to provide either:

- Copies or digital forms or accepted documents for proof of identity in lieu of the original documents; or
- Certain expired forms of identification, including, but not limited to, common access cards, Kansas driver's licenses, or Kansas voter registration cards.

Fees

The bill would prohibit the Secretary of Health and Environment (Secretary) from charging or accepting any fee related to a homeless veteran's request for certain information from the Office of Vital Statistics for the purposes of obtaining a non-driver ID card, so long as such homeless

veteran exhibits correspondence from one of the above-mentioned entities and that the homeless veteran needs the requested information to apply for a non-driver ID card. The Secretary would be authorized to provide exemptions for such fees in agency rules and regulations.

Purple Heart State Designation and Purple Heart Day

The bill would designate Kansas as a Purple Heart State, in recognition of Kansas citizens who have earned the Purple Heart as a result of being wounded while engaged in combat with an enemy force.

The bill would require the Governor to issue a proclamation recognizing Purple Heart Day to be observed on August 7 of each year.

The bill would require the Executive Director of KOVS to promote the observance of Purple Heart Day with appropriate activities and direct each local chapter of all veterans' organizations to plan special activities and events to honor the Purple Heart recipients in each chapter.

Background

The Senate Select Committee on Veterans Affairs amended the bill to add the provisions of SB 106, concerning homeless veteran ID cards, and SB 200, concerning Purple Heart recognition, to the provisions of HB 2274. The background for each bill is provided below.

HB 2274 (Occupational Licensure)

HB 2274 was introduced by the House Committee on Veterans and Military at the request of Representative Thompson.

House Committee on Veterans and Military

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Adjutant General's Department, who stated the bill would remedy an oversight in legislation enacted in the 2024 Legislative Session that excluded current National Guard and Reserve members.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions, who expressed concerns that the bill is overly broad.

No other testimony was provided.

Senate Select Committee on Veterans Affairs

In the Senate Select Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the Adjutant General's Department and the Kansas Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), that was substantially similar to testimony provided in the House Committee hearing.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Knee Regulatory Research Center at West Virginia University. The representative explained the economic impact of waiving licensing fees for military service members and their spouses.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Select Committee amended the bill to add the provisions of SB 106, as amended by the Senate Select Committee, and SB 200, as introduced by Senators Alley and 38 others, to the provisions of HB 2274.

SB 106 (Homeless Veteran ID Cards)

SB 106 was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Faust-Goudeau.

Senate Select Committee on Veterans Affairs

In the Senate Select Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Senator Faust-Goudeau and representatives from MOAA and Passageways. The proponents indicated the bill would permit homeless veterans to use alternative forms of proof of identity and residency when applying for non-driver identification and would eliminate fees for homeless veterans to obtain birth certificates for purposes of non-driver ID applications.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Select Committee amended the bill to clarify homeless veterans' non-driver ID cards would not expire.

SB 200 (Purple Heart Recognition)

The bill was introduced by Senators Alley and 38 others.

Senate Select Committee on Veterans Affairs

In the Senate Select Committee hearing, no testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

HB 2274 (Occupational Licensure)

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2274, as introduced, the Board of Nursing

states that enactment of the bill would not affect agency expenditures but could decrease revenues depending on the number of applicants the bill would affect, but is unable to estimate a fiscal effect.

The State Board of Veterinary Examiners states that enactment of the bill could decrease revenues up to \$1,500 starting in FY 2026 as 15 military spouses could qualify to not pay the license fees.

The Kansas Real Estate Commission states that the bill could reduce its fee fund revenues between \$40,000 and \$45,000 annually. To estimate the reduction, the agency used data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. It assumed that 7.5 percent of Kansas adults are veterans, and that 50.0 percent of those adults have a spouse. The Commission estimates that 3.75 percent of those spouses would apply for a real estate license and thus not have to pay the associated fees.

The Board of Barbering states enactment of the bill could affect agency expenditures and revenues. The agency may have to update some processes, and revenues could be reduced depending on the number of military spouses that apply and renew licenses. However, the Board cannot estimate a precise fiscal effect.

The Kansas Dental Board states that it cannot estimate how many applicants would qualify for the fee waiver if the bill were enacted. However, the Board estimates that any fiscal effect would be negligible.

The Board of Examiners in Optometry indicates that enactment of the bill could have a negligible fiscal effect on agency operations. The Board states that it has received a small number of applicants who apply under the current statute.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment states that the bill would have a negligible effect on the revenues of the Bureau of Air and the Bureau of Water.

The Kansas Board of Hearing Aid Examiners, the State Board of Technical Professions, the State Board of Pharmacy, the Board of Accountancy, the Abstracters' Board of Examiners, and the State Board of Mortuary Arts indicate it is unknown how many additional applications would be received if the bill were enacted, which would reduce agencies' revenues, and therefore a fiscal effect cannot be estimated.

The State Board of Healing Arts, the Insurance Department, and the Behavioral Science Regulatory Board state that the bill would not have a fiscal effect. All agencies affected under the provisions of the bill have been asked for a fiscal note response, and the Division of the Budget has received 16 out of 20 responses to date.

Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2274 is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

SB 106 (Homeless Veteran ID Cards)

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on SB 106, as introduced, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment states that enactment of SB 106 would not result in a fiscal effect for the agency as the Office of Vital Statistics already has a process in place to waive fees for veterans. The Kansas Department of Revenue reports that as of January 2024, there is an estimate of 199 homeless veterans in Kansas. There is no estimate for the number of homeless veterans that would obtain an identification card pursuant to the bill. According to the KOVS, enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on agency operations. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 106 is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

SB 200 (Purple Heart Recognition)

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on SB 200, the Office of the Governor indicates any fiscal effect associated with the enactment of SB 200 would be negligible.

KOVS indicates enactment of SB 200 would have no fiscal effect on the agency.

Military spouse; occupational licensing; licensing fee waiver; veteran; proof of identification; homeless; identification document fees; purple heart; Governor; Secretary of Health and Environment; Office of Veterans Services; rules and regulations