

KANSAS BOARD OF HEALING ARTS

LAWRENCE T. BUENING, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

MEMO

TO: House Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Lawrence T. Buening, Jr.
Executive Director

DATE: January 23, 2004

RE: Request for Introduction of Bill

My purpose in appearing before you is to request introduction of a bill that makes changes to a number of statutes for which the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts is responsible for administering. While the bill is fairly lengthy, there are very few substantive changes made by the proposed amendments. Rather, the proposed amendments are intended to create more consistency among the various statutes the Board administers. A brief synopsis of the proposed bill is as follows:

Section 1. This amends K.S.A. 65-2005 of the podiatry act. A separate postgraduate permit is created for those engaged in postgraduate study in this state. Also, inactive and federally active license designations are created identical to those that already exist for licensees under the healing arts act (MD, DO, and DC). A new section is added specifying the requirements that must be met by a podiatrist whose license has been revoked. These provisions are also similar to language currently contained in the healing arts act.

Section 2. This also amends a statute within the podiatry act and makes the statutory maximums for fees for podiatrists identical to the fee maximums for licensees under the healing arts act.

Section 3. This deals with the physician assistant law regarding the registry of physician assistants authorized to engage in active practice in Kansas. It also creates and inactive and federally active license for those physician assistants who do not have a responsible physician. Fees are also amended to reflect these new license designations.

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Section 4. This amends the physical therapy act and creates an inactive license for physical therapists not currently practicing in Kansas and are, therefore, not maintaining professional liability insurance.

Section 5. This expands the sanctions that the Board can impose against occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants who violate the provisions of the occupational therapy act.

Section 6. This makes the process for renewal, expiration, cancellation and reinstatement of occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant licenses similar to that for other professions regulated by the Board.

Section 7. This expands the sanctions the Board can impose against respiratory therapists similar to that done in the occupational therapy act.

Section 8. Amendments in this section also make the renewal, expiration, cancellation and reinstatement process for respiratory therapists similar to other professions the Board regulates.

Section 9. This expands the sanctions the Board can impose against naturopathic doctors

Section 10. Again, this makes the renewal, expiration, cancellation and reinstatement process for naturopathic doctors similar to other professions.

There will be little, if any, economic impact to the proposed amendments. While the statutory maximums for podiatrists are increased in several categories, it is not anticipated that the Board will increase fees in the foreseeable future—the increases are sought solely to make the podiatry statutory maximums identical with the maximums for healing arts licensees. It is probable the Board may actually decrease the fees for inactive license renewals. Similarly, although Section 3 contains changes to the statutory maximums for physician assistants, the Board may decrease fees for inactive license renewals. The sections that allow the Board to impose fines for violations of the various acts will have an economic impact on those individuals against whom a fine is imposed. This economic impact will be felt only by a small number of licensees.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you. I ask that you favorably consider the introduction of this bill. I would be happy to respond to any questions.