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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Kansas Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: March 13, 2023
Subject: HB 2375—Establishing temporary candidacy baccalaureate and master social work licenses

House Bill 2375 would authorize the behavioral sciences regulatory board (BSRB) to grant a temporary candidacy baccalaureate or masters social work license.

Currently, BSRB issues licenses to baccalaureate and masters social work applicants who have a degree from an accredited college or university, completed a social work program recognized and approved by BSRB, passed an exam and satisfied BSRB that the applicant merits the public trust.

HB 2375 would authorize BSRB to grant a temporary candidacy baccalaureate or masters social work license to a person who received a baccalaureate or master’s degree from a social program that is in candidacy status for accreditation but has not yet received full accreditation status. This would include online programs.

To receive the temporary candidacy baccalaureate or masters social work license, the applicant would have to:

- Demonstrate receipt of a baccalaureate or master’s degree, including completion of a social work program;
- Pass an exam;
- Submit a completed, signed application;
- Satisfy BSRB that the applicant merits the public trust; and
- Pay a fee of not more than \$75 as provided in section 2 of the bill.

The temporary candidacy baccalaureate or masters social work license would be valid for 24 months and may be extended upon a showing that the social work program remains in candidacy status and payment of an additional \$75 fee.

A person with this license could represent themselves as “licensed by temporary candidacy license” but would not be permitted to use the credentials “LBSW” or “LMSW.” Additionally, the licensee would be required to practice under supervision and not be required to complete continuing education.

Once the licensee's social work program achieves accreditation, BRSB would grant a permanent license upon payment of the applicable fee. If the program does not receive accreditation, BRSB would immediately revoke the temporary license and notify the licensee of the revocation.

HB 2375 would apply to the online baccalaureate and master's social work program at the university of Saint Mary in Leavenworth.

The bill would take effect on July 1 upon publication in the statute book.