

February 14, 2017

The Honorable Daniel Hawkins, Chairperson
House Committee on Health and Human Services
Statehouse, Room 521-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Hawkins:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2139 by House Committee on Health and Human Services

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2139 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2139 would add a new class of licensees called dental therapists to the Kansas Dental Practices Act. Currently, the Kansas Dental Board licenses and regulates dentists and dental hygienists. To practice as a dental therapist, a person would be required to have the following qualifications:

1. Be a licensed dental hygienist who is also a graduate of a dental therapist education program approved by the Board;
2. Pass a comprehensive, competency-based clinical examination that is approved by the Board and administered independently of an institution which provides registered dental practitioner education;
3. Have practiced under direct supervision of a supervising dentist for at least 500 hours before practicing under general supervision; and,
4. Obtain a policy of professional liability insurance and show proof of the insurance as required by rules and regulations.

The Board would be required to adopt rules and regulations regarding the licensure of registered dental therapists. The bill would also specify the terms and conditions under which licenses may be suspended or revoked and make several amendments relating to references to registered dental therapists and the practice of dental therapy.

The bill would permit the Board to collect fees related to the licensure of dental therapists. The maximum limit for these fees would include \$25 for certificates; \$200 for biennial license renewals; \$150 for examinations; and \$100 for subsequent examinations.

The bill would also change the structure of the Kansas Dental Board by requiring the Governor to appoint two licensed dental therapists to the Board, which would increase Board membership from nine to 11. The appointment process would begin once 100 dental therapists are licensed with the Board. Before the licensure of 100 dental therapists is attained, the Governor would appoint a nonvoting member who is involved in the education, employment or establishment of dental therapists in Kansas. The nonvoting member's term would expire upon the appointment of the two dental therapists.

Finally, the bill would add registered dental practitioner services to the list of services the Kansas Department of Health and Environment may provide as a charitable health care provider.

The Kansas Dental Board indicates that the bill would result in additional expenditures related to supporting expanded Board membership and implementing a new group of licensees. The Board estimates that adding two new members would add expenditures of \$4,480 beginning in FY 2019. The estimate assumes four meetings per year at a cost of \$1,120 per meeting (\$560 per new member, per meeting), which includes expenses for salaries and wages and travel and subsistence. The Board also estimates it would incur costs associated with adopting and publishing regulations and upgrading the agency's database and online license renewal system. However, the Board does not have estimates for these other operating expenses. The Kansas Dental Board would also receive additional revenue from new dental therapist fees. The fiscal effect on revenue cannot be determined because the number of dental therapists who would become licensed with the Board is unknown.

The bill would have no fiscal effect on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2139 is not reflected in *The FY 2018 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Sullivan", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Dan Thimmesch, Health & Environment
Charity Carlat, Dental Board