

January 24, 2012

The Honorable Vicki Schmidt, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Statehouse, Room 552-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Schmidt:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 290 by Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 290 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 290 would amend the Addictions Counselor Licensure Act to require applicants for licensure as an addictions counselor to provide evidence of having a minimum number of semester hours of coursework from a college or university on substance use disorders as approved by the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board. Applicants would also have to bring satisfaction to the Board as being one who merits the public trust.

In addition, applicants would be required to provide proof that they have completed at least two years of postgraduate supervised professional experience in accordance with a clinical supervision plan approved by the Board of not less than:

1. 4,000 hours of supervised professional experience including at least 1,500 hours of direct client contact conducting substance abuse assessments and treatment with individuals, couples, families or groups and no less than 150 hours of clinical supervision, including a minimum of 50 hours of person-to-person individual supervision, integrating diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorders with use of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association; or
2. 2,000 hours of supervised professional experience including at least 750 hours of direct client contact conducting substance abuse assessments and treatment with individuals, couples, families or groups and no less than 75 hours of clinical supervision, including a minimum of 25 hours of person-to-person individual supervision, integrating diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorders with use of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association, and the person has a doctoral degree in addiction counseling or a related field as approved by the Board.

The bill would clarify the scope of practice for professionals currently licensed in Kansas as a psychologist, specialist clinical social worker, clinical professional counselor, clinical psychotherapist or clinical marriage and family therapist who are also seeking licensure as an addictions counselor. These professionals would be required to provide to the Board an attestation from a professional licensed to diagnose and treat mental disorders or substance use disorders in independent practice, or licensed to practice medicine and surgery, which states that the applicant is competent to diagnose and treat substance use disorders.

SB 290 would add the following requirements for licensure to practice clinical addictions counseling in Kansas to individuals currently registered, certified, or licensed to practice in another jurisdiction:

1. Completion of a master's degree in clinical addiction counseling from a college or university approved by the Board; or
2. Completion of a master's degree in a related field that includes a minimum number of semester hours of coursework supporting the diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorders as approved by the Board; or
3. Completion of a master's degree in a related field with additional coursework in addiction counseling from a college or university approved by the Board and such degree program and additional coursework includes a minimum number of semester hours of coursework supporting the diagnosis and treatment of substance use disorders as approved by the Board.

The bill would clarify that individuals seeking licensure to practice clinical addictions counseling in Kansas and are currently registered, certified, or licensed to practice in another jurisdiction would be required to provide proof of continuous registration, certification, or licensure to practice clinical addiction counseling during the five years immediately preceding the application with at least the minimum professional experience as established by rules and regulations of the Board.

The Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board indicates that any fiscal effect associated with the passage of SB 290 would be negligible.

Sincerely,



Steven J. Anderson, CPA, MBA
Director of the Budget