

SESSION OF 2018

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 386

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Public Health and Welfare

Brief*

SB 386 would amend the Professional Counselors Licensure Act. In continuing law, an individual making an application to the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) for licensure as a professional counselor is required, among other things, to have earned a graduate degree in counseling. The bill would allow licensure for an applicant who earned a graduate degree in a counseling-related field as long as all the remaining qualifications set forth in statute are met. The change would be applicable to individuals applying for initial licensure and to individuals applying for licensure who are licensed to practice professional counseling in another jurisdiction.

The bill also would clarify that the licensure requirement of 45 graduate semester hours in various areas set forth in statute would be counseling coursework.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare at the request of a representative of the BSRB. In the Senate Committee hearing, a representative of the BSRB testified in support of the bill, stating the bill does not change the content of the educational subject matter areas that are currently required in order to be a licensed professional counselor. The representative further stated the bill would allow those who meet the educational

*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 <http://www.kslegislature.org>

subject matter area requirements but have a degree related to counseling to be issued a professional counselor license. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Counseling Association. No other testimony was provided.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the BSRB estimates enactment of the bill would increase annual revenues from licensing fees by approximately \$1,000 beginning in FY 2019 because more individuals would meet the requirements to be licensed as a professional counselor or clinical professional counselor. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2019 Governor's Budget Report*.