

January 19, 2024

The Honorable Brenda Landwehr, Chairperson  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 112-N  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Landwehr:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for HB 2484 by Representative S. Ruiz

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2484 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2484 would add Kansas to a Social Work Licensure Compact. The Compact would provide interstate social work practice privileges and include multi-state licensing fees. Currently, each state has jurisdictional authority to require that social workers providing services to individuals who are physically located within that state must be licensed by that state. This means that social workers who wish to provide services to individuals in multiple states must obtain a license in each state in which they intend to provide services. The bill would permit Compact member-states the authority to create a new multi-state license. Individuals holding a multi-state license would be able to practice in all other Compact member-states without obtaining a separate license in those states. Social workers would have a choice between obtaining the traditional single-state license if they only want to practice in their home-state, or to obtain a multi-state license if they wish to practice in other Compact member-states.

The bill includes the fee statute for the social work profession and would authorize the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) to charge an application, new license, reinstatement, or renewal fee for a multi-state license for bachelors, master's, or clinical social workers. This language would establish a fee cap, but the specific amount of the fees would be set in regulation. The Compact would require that multi-state license holders pass a background check with fingerprints and would provide authority for a fee to be charged to member-states for Compact membership.

Estimated State Fiscal Effect			
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Expenditures			
State General Fund	--	--	--
Fee Fund(s)	--	--	--
Federal Fund	--	--	--
Total Expenditures	--	--	--
Revenues			
State General Fund	--	(3,841)	(7,682)
Fee Fund(s)	--	(34,569)	(69,138)
Federal Fund	--	--	--
Total Revenues	--	(38,410)	(76,820)
FTE Positions	--	--	--

The BSRB indicates that one of the benefits of the Compact is mobility of licensees. The Compact would also provide continuity of care to clients when those clients travel to other states. Another benefit is that it would allow more telehealth practice into Kansas and allow Kansas licensees with a multi-state license to provide telehealth practice into other Compact member states.

It is anticipated that enough states will enact the Compact during the 2024 Legislative session, so that the Compact Commission would begin meeting in the fall of 2024. This group would need to create rules for the implementation of the Compact. It is estimated that the Compact would become functional in January 2025. If this timeline holds, it is estimated that the loss in revenue for FY 2025 would be \$38,410, then the full reduction in revenue would be realized in FY 2026 and each year thereafter (\$76,820). However, as a fee funded agency, by statute, the agency is required to contribute 10.0 percent of all revenue to the State General Fund up to \$100,000. Therefore, a loss of revenue of \$38,410 in FY 2025, would be a decrease in revenue to the BSRB Fee Fund of \$34,569 and a decrease to the State General Fund revenue of \$3,841 in FY 2025. Similarly, a loss of revenue of \$76,820 in FY 2026, would be a decrease in revenue to the BSRB Fee Fund of \$69,138 and a decrease to the State General Fund revenue of \$7,682 in FY 2026.

At this time, it is unknown how many social workers who have Kansas as their home-state would wish to move to a multi-state license, or how quickly they would do it. It is anticipated that some individuals could wait until their current license expires before changing license types, so there could be a roll-out spread over several years. The BSRB will be sending a survey to social work licensees to determine interest in moving to a multi-state license, which will be helpful in estimating what could be charged for a multi-state license to potentially mitigate lost revenue.

Currently, social workers in Kansas are not required to take a background check, but it is anticipated the fee for these types of background checks would be \$48.00 per individual. This charge would ultimately be paid to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation for completing the

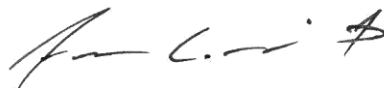
fingerprinting and running the report. At this time, the BSRB cannot estimate how many individuals would switch to the multi-state license and need to pass the background check, or the impact processing these reports would have on staff workloads.

It is not currently known whether the Social Work Compact will charge member-states a membership fee to be a member-state in the Compact, so no fiscal effect was estimated for this possible cost. At this time, the BSRB has not taken a position on a specific amount for multi-state license fees, however if the new multi-state license fees are higher than a traditional single-state license fee, it could be a way to mitigate revenue loss.

The Department for Children and Families (DCF) assumes the licensure fees it pays for social workers employed by DCF would be either a Kansas license or a multistate license, but not both. Since the fees outlined in the bill are the same for both a Kansas license and multistate license for each category, there would be no fiscal impact to DCF.

The Office of Judicial Administration indicates that HB 2484 would not have a significant fiscal effect on expenditures of the Judicial Branch. While the bill's provisions could create more work for district court personnel because it provides for judicial enforcement of multistate social worker's licensure violations, this is not anticipated to be significant. The bill would not have a fiscal effect on revenues to the Judicial Branch. However, the passage of HB 2484 could result in the collection of docket fees in those cases filed under the provisions of the bill, which would be deposited in the State General Fund. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2484 is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Adam C. Proffitt  
Director of the Budget

cc: David Fye, Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board  
Kim Holter, Department for Children & Families  
Trisha Morrow, Judiciary