

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Mary Pilcher-Cook, Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare  
Statehouse, Room 441-E  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Pilcher-Cook:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for SB 413 by Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 413 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 413 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 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 practitioners. 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.

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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 number of individuals who would seek to become dental therapists and the time it would take to reach 100 dental therapists is unknown. The Board estimates that there would be a fiscal effect in the out years from implementing a new group of licensees and supporting expanded Board membership. The Board would also receive additional revenue from dental therapist fees. However, the precise fiscal effect on Board expenditures and revenues is unknown.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment estimates that any fiscal effect resulting from the bill would be negligible and could be handled within current Department resources. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 413 is not reflected in *The FY 2017 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: Charity Carlat, Dental Board  
Aaron Dunkel, Health & Environment