

HB2285

Evie Curtis, Public Member and Vice-Chair of the Kansas Board of Examiners
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Kansas Board of Examiners in fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments was created in 1968 to protect Kansas consumers in the fitting and dispensing of hearing aids. During 2004, the Board, along with Camille Nohe of the Attorney General's office, undertook the task of addressing outdated language and outdated practices in the current bill. Many of the changes in HB2285 were recommended by the Attorney General's office.

Within HB 2285 many statutes are updated and clarified. In addition there are several statutes that have been created to augment the board's ability to handle disciplinary actions. These include fine authority, cease and desist authority, authority to apply for injunction and authority to censure. The bill will increase the agencies responsibilities by providing increased disciplinary options in regard to complaint issues.

In procedural areas of actual licensure application the board will see no change in responsibility but will have more clarity and consistency throughout the bill.

The bill revises and clarifies areas regarding reciprocity, supervision, board composition, re-application for temporary licenses, and the requirements for product description in purchase agreements. The changes are meaningful for Kansas consumers but do not impact scope of practice for our licensees.

HB2285 can be implemented within the currently approved staffing and operating expenditure levels.

The Board believes HB2285 will resolve issues of outdated language, provide an improved working foundation for licensees and the Board, and it will improve the Board's ability to protect Kansas consumers.