

Board of Technical Professions

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Larry G. Karns, Executive Director

Laura Kelly, Governor

**Senate Committee on Commerce**

Neutral Testimony on HB 2745 by Kansas State Board of Technical Professions

Chairperson Senator Erickson, and members of the Committee:

I am Larry Karns, the Executive Director of the Board of Technical Professions.

The Board of Technical Professions is a fee funded agency. Our revenues are derived principally from licensing fees charged applicants for licensure and licensure renewals fees. Our licensees, engineers, architects, geologists, land surveyors and landscape architects, are scattered across the country with approximately 2/3's or more residing out of state. Many of our licensees are licensed and practice in multiple states. You do not need to live in Kansas to be licensed to practice in Kansas.

I am here before you to provide information regarding HB 2745. As I read the bill it would exempt from paying Kansas licensing related fees for any applicant who is the spouse of an active military servicemember regardless of where they reside. The statute being amended by this bill in KSA 48-3406 (a)(1) defines "applicant" as "an individual who is a military spouse, military servicemember or an individual who has established or intends to establish residency in Kansas." Military spouses or military servicemembers are not required to be or intend to become Kansas residents to be covered by the bill. If the purpose of the bill is to provide relief to military families stationed in Kansas it could be amended to reflect that it applies only to spouses of active military service members stationed in Kansas.

The bill was amended by the house to make this change. We support the amended bill.

I will stand for questions.

Larry Karns, Executive Director

February 16, 2024