January 18, 2012

The Honorable Senator Pete Brungardt
Chairperson, Federal and State Affairs Committee
Room 144S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Brungardt:

Re: Questions regarding Substitute for HB 2178

Substitute for HB 2178 would require a licensing agency to issue a license to a nonresident military spouse if certain requirements are met, which are detailed in the bill. Among those requirements which the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners has questions about are:

[page 1, Line 21] has not committed an act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for...

Questions: How does the licensing board obtain information about the license applicant committing such an act(s)? Assuming the licensing board could obtain such information, would not such information call for legal interpretation as to whether or not committing such an act would or would not constitute grounds? If so, would the licensing board be required to pay the cost of obtaining such legal interpretation?

[page 2, Line 7] Any person who has not been in the active practice of the occupation during the two years preceding the application for which the applicant seeks a license...

Question: The current statutory requirement for a Kansas veterinary license is practicing 3000 hours within the most recent 3 years. Could similar language be considered so as to be consistent with the current statutory requirements, or alternatively could some number of hours be specified so as to clarify what would constitute "active practice"?

Other Questions:
[page 1, line 7] Instead of the language using the mandatory (shall), could the language provide discretionary authority for the licensing board [may]?

To what extent has a need for this statute been evidenced? Has there been any nonresident military spouse that did not get a license that would have gotten one if this law had been in effect? There has not been such a case in the last eighteen years for any nonresident military spouse who was seeking licensure as a veterinarian.
The Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners supports our licensees who serve in the military as well as their spouses. The Kansas Veterinary Practice Act statutes waive license renewal fees and continuing education requirements while the licensee is on active duty in the military during a time of national emergency.

The Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners appreciates consideration of these questions as the Committee evaluates this proposed legislation.

On behalf of the Members of the Board,

Dirk Hanson, DVM, Executive Director
Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners