

Public Health and Welfare Committee
March 8, 2017
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2028
Mary Blubaugh MSN, R.N.
Executive Administrator

Good Morning Madam Chair Schmidt and members of the Public Health and Welfare Committee. My name is Mary Blubaugh, Executive Administrator for the Kansas State Board of Nursing. I am here to provide testimony in support of HB 2028.

The Board of Nursing has licensed mental health technicians (LMHT) for many years. The last school closed in the early 2000's and since then the number of LMHT has declined. There are currently 59 LMHTs licensed in Kansas. The Board has approved the opening of three LMHT programs; Osawatomie State Hospital, Fort Scott Community College and Larned State Hospital/Barton County Community College. The Board had not given an exam for licensure since the last school closed in the early 2000's. The exam was outdated and a new one needed to be developed. KSBN contracted with a testing company to assist with the development and administration of the new exam. KSBN had subject matter experts help develop the new exam. The exam is computer based and is administered in testing sites in Wichita, Topeka, and Great Bend. The cost for the exam is \$215. We have currently given 8 LMHT exams for a cost of \$1720.00. Of the cost of \$1720.00 the Board of Nursing has been able to receive \$320.00 from the graduates that took the exam because the cap on the exam is \$40.00. In the requested changes, the cap for examination and reexamination has been deleted. The requested addition in the statute allows for examination or reexamination fee to be paid directly to the examination service by the person taking the exam.

Other changes in the statute change the word patient to individual and language clean up.

The board respectfully asks for favorable action on HB 2028. Thank you for your time and consideration and I will stand for questions.