



To: Senate Commerce Committee

From: Rachelle Colombo
Executive Director

Date: February 24, 2021

Re: SB 137 - concerning occupational regulation

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to provide comments regarding SB 137 which expands expedited processing of occupational licenses to nonresident, non-military applicants and could alter state licensure requirements for non-residents in some occupations. The Kansas Medical Society has been supportive of previous legislation that has expedited licensure for veterans and military spouses, so long as such efforts have been carefully crafted to uphold state licensing standards and provide a reasonable time frame for processing. SB 137 has far broader application, but we do not object to the proposed provisions regarding the Board of Healing Arts. We would prefer that all licensees providing direct patient care be amended into the proposed provisions affecting the Board of Healing Arts.

SB 137 both expands expedited processing to all non-residents and shortens the period of time a licensing agency has to issue a license to applicants from 60 to 15 business days. Under the bill, licensing agencies would be required to issue a temporary permit at the time of application to any applicant whose license from another state is in good standing, regardless of potential differences in licensure standards. With the exception of attorneys, all professional occupations are addressed under the bill.

Though we do not favor this approach to licensure, we support the language pertaining to the Board of Healing Arts requiring a substantially equivalent standard for licensees. Requiring substantial equivalences ensures that the expedited licensure process does not have the effect of lowering our state's statutory standard resulting in endangering the public. We urge your support of this specific language and appreciate the efforts of the bill sponsor to acknowledge the difference in licensure types and impact on public safety.

KMS supports efforts to expedite occupational licensure which uphold and do not diminish Kansas state licensure requirements and urges your careful consideration of legislation impacting public safety. Thank you.