

SAM BROWNBACK
Governor

TOM HAWK, Ph.D.
Executive Director



712 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3817
(785) 296-3240
FAX (785) 296-3112
www.ksbsrb.org

Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board

HB 2726 Testimony

Opposed

February 15, 2012

Chair Burgess and Members of the House Government Efficiency Committee:

I am offering testimony from the perspective of the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board regarding HB2726.

My major concern about this bill deals with the consequence of having our already tight agency budget essentially cut by charging BSRB the INK and credit cards fees when our licensees renew on-line. As I read this bill, we would have to pay those "convenience fees" and that could amount to \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year that is not in our current budgets for 2012 or 2013.

One solution for us would be to stop allowing on-line renewals. From my time in the Legislature, I applauded the work of this committee and of our total body in encouraging State Government to become more efficient and customer friendly, especially by using web based technology. This bill seems to punish our agency and other fee agencies, as well as our customers (licensees) for using this technology.

I would like to add some other thoughts under the category of **"Perhaps Too Much Information"**:

Our fee agency, like the others, operates with a Board that is appointed by the Governor. There are several areas of State Government that we must use and areas that prescribe certain actions of our agency. We are also "taxed 10%" for all license revenue and return that money to the General Fund. I believe that our agency, after protecting the public, should be accountable to our customers---the licensees who fund our budget. Our Board should have primary authority in directing our expenditures and make sure that we operate in an efficient manner. When others branches of government try to bring about efficiencies without the involvement of our Board, those changes often create unintended hardships and problems. I would hope that resting the proper authority with our Board to find efficiencies and hopefully reduce fees is a much better approach than having micromanagement by the Executive or Legislative branches.

To put this focus on our "taxpayers" (our licensees), perhaps additional Board members should be added who are selected, or at least vetted, by the Professional Associations of our members. That would be a way to encourage this kind of efficiency from fee funded state agencies like the BSRB with strong input from the licensees who we regulate and serve through their payments to our agency.

HB2726 does not bring about efficiencies or even a reduction in charges to our licensees. Instead, it reduces our budget in effect and ultimately will lead to an increase in fees. The check and balance on our budget is handled through the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Ways and Means Committee. This bill would usurp that Legislative authority and process in my opinion.

Sincerely,

Tom Hawk, Executive Director