

May 2, 2022

Enactment of SB 453

On behalf of the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB), I am proud to announce the enactment of SB 453. This bill includes many helpful statutory changes affecting current licensees and aspiring licensees while maintaining essential protection of the public. I have included a short summary of the changes in the bill which affect individuals under the jurisdiction of the BSRB. SB 453 was published in the Kansas Register on April 28, 2022, so unless otherwise noted, the provisions in SB 453 are effective immediately.

Licensed Addiction Counselor (LAC) License by Master's Level License or Clinical Level License

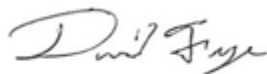
SB 453 amends Kansas Statute Annotated (KSA) 65-6610 to include language permitting individuals licensed by the BSRB as Licensed Master's Social Workers, Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Workers, Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapists, Master's Level Psychologists, Clinical Psychotherapists, or Licensed Psychologists to be eligible to take a BSRB-approved examination for licensure as a Licensed Addiction Counselor. Current law continues to allow the master's-level practitioners under the BSRB listed above, the option to use their licenses as an alternative to the traditional educational requirements to take the examination to become a Licensed Master's Level Addiction Counselor and continues to allow the clinical-level practitioners under the BSRB listed above, the option to use their licenses as an alternative to the traditional educational requirements to take the examination to become a Licensed Clinical Addiction Counselor. This new change in SB 453 provides further flexibility to allow these practitioners the flexibility to use their licenses to satisfy requirements to take the examination to become a Licensed Addiction Counselor. To submit an application as a Licensed Addition Counselor using this new provision, please use the form *LAC by BSRB Master's Level or Clinical Level License* on the BSRB website at <https://ksbsrb.ks.gov/forms>.

Consideration of Alternative Practicums from Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker Applicants

SB 453 amends KSA 65-6306 to allow the BSRB to consider applicants who obtained a practicum other than a clinical practicum, when those applicants seek licensure as a Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker. Prior to the enactment of 2021 HB 2208, the BSRB had authority to consider applicants who had obtained different types of practicums, such as administrative practicums, when those applicants applied for licensure as a clinical-level social worker. However, an amendment to 2021 HB 2208 struck language allowing the BSRB to consider "additional postgraduate supervised experience as determined by the Board" as a substitution for attaining a clinical practicum. SB 453 adds that language back to statute. (Note: This change does not affect anyone who completed a clinical practicum.) The specific process to be used by the BSRB for evaluating applicants who completed a non-clinical practicum will need to be determined through the rules and regulations process, but now that SB 453 has been enacted, the BSRB will be able to move forward with determining the appropriate standard in regulations.

For any questions regarding these changes, please contact the BSRB office at BSRB@ks.gov.

Sincerely,



David B. Fye, JD
Executive Director
Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board