

**Kansas State Board of Nursing
Special Board Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2026**

Time: 12:03 p.m. – 12:54 p.m.

Board Present: Andrea Watson, RN, BSN, OCN, CCRP, President
Steven Peterson, BSN, RN, CCRN, MEDSURG-BC, Vice President
Michelle Terry, Public Member, Secretary
Ruth L.M. Burkhart, DNP, MA, RN-BC, LPCC
Belinda Katz, LPN
Tosha Fields, MSN, RN, LNHA, LNC
Amy Hite, EdD(c), DNP, FNP-C
Brenda Sharpe, Public Member

Absent with prior notice
Adri Gouldsmith, LPN
Melissa Oropeza, DNP, APRN-BC, CGRN

Staff Present: Carol Moreland, MSN, RN, Executive Administrator
Adrian Guerrero, Director of Operations
Linda Davies, BSN, RN, Practice Specialist
Rachel Kenney-Townsend, Assistant Attorney General
Jill Simons, Executive Assistant

Quorum: A quorum was established.

Call to order: The Board meeting was called to order by Andrea Watson, RN, BSN, OCN, CCRP, Board President, at 12:03 p.m. by Zoom meeting.

The Board sent notice of the meeting for the Special Board meeting on January 28, 2026, to all individuals who have requested notice of the Board's meetings. Additionally, the notice and agenda were posted on the Board's website: ksbn.kansas.gov. The notice contains the meeting dial-in number and pin to allow the public to attend this meeting free of charge. The notice also advised individuals to contact the Board's office at 785-296-5752 if the individual does not have access to a computer.

HB No. 2478: Requiring that advanced practice registered nurses and registered nurse anesthetists submit to a criminal history check upon application for a nursing license.

C. Moreland reported that this is the fingerprint bill that was recommended after the FBI audit, this will add both federal and state background information on APRN's and RNA's to the statute. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, by the Committee

on House Health and Human Services. There were no expenditures added on the fiscal note.

HB No. 2532:

Establishing an impaired provider program, expanding the grounds for disciplinary action against a licensee and providing for the reinstatement of a revoked license under the Kansas nurse practice act.

C. Moreland reported that this bill was approving language and came out of the Statute Task Force that met several times to look at our disciplinary statutes to suggest changes they felt might be helpful. The Board approved these suggestions at the December 2025 Board meeting. The bill has been introduced to the Health and Human Services Committee on the house side. No hearing has been scheduled at this time.

HB No. 2528:

Requiring all state board of nursing actions related to nonpractice violations be void, allowing for late license renewal for professional, practical and advanced practice registered nurses, setting fees for late license renewal, limiting unprofessional conduct to acts related to the practice of nursing, prohibiting the board from taking retaliatory action against a licensee based on certain lawful actions and creating a civil cause of action for violation thereof, requiring that board members be subject to senate confirmation and requiring the board to issue refunds for overpayment or duplicate payment.

C. Moreland reported that this is the bill that was requested by Representative Pickert and came out of the House Select Committee on Government Oversight. This will be significant to us and there will be a hearing held on Thursday, February 5, 2026, by the Committee on House Health and Human Services. If this bill is implemented, it would take effect on July 1, 2026.

The Board will need to decide how they want KSBN to testify at the hearing. Do we support the bill, remain neutral with concerns posted or oppose the bill?

Highlights of the bill are:

- 21 years will have to go back and void discipline and try to get it removed from the national databases.
- Removed expiration date of licenses to renewal date. This may be a problem as several databases go by expiration dates.
- Licenses would go by renewal date and then it would have a late renewal that would have a late renewal fee for 90 days and then would be called an expiration date. If after 90 days the license hasn't been renewed, the license would then be canceled. This is a new term for us as we lapsed a license when

it has not been renewed. We're not clear what would happen if someone wanted to come back as we aren't seeing an option for them to reinstate.

- Transcript request that the school would need to release it within five days of the school or the applicant requesting. The nursing programs have been made aware of this potential change.
- Unprofessional conduct would change. It does not include behaviors that are unrelated to the licensee practice of nursing or the ability to ethically and competently practice nursing such as failure to timely renew a license or late payments. The actions we would be able to take related to license renewal, licensing applications are very changed from our practice now.
- Changes to language on board members. Board members with similar clinical or professional experience to the person charged with the violation. Thinking this concerns the Investigative Committee Board members, as well as our Investigators nurses.
- Added a section on retaliation.
- Board members would need to be confirmed by the Senate, and a Board member cannot serve as a Board member while also elected to the office of governor, attorney general, or a member of the legislature. This is a new section.
- We would have to do refunds. We cannot assess a fine for any activity related to an initial or renew licensure.

This would significantly change how we do things now and there would be no way we could make this happen without changes. The fiscal note that was submitted added 21 more FTE's than what we currently have and noted that we would need a larger office space to accommodate everyone, need more licensing, investigators and disciplinary staff.

We are a fee funded agency meaning no money comes out of General Funds. There was a proviso added in the appropriations committee that removed one million dollars out of our fee fund to start up a fund called the nurse fair treatment and recovery fund that would be for nurses who feel they have been wronged. The proviso also added that the Board would not be able to raise fees in fiscal year 2027.

Board Question:

Have we had the opportunity to discuss this with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) and if this could interfere with our compliance with the nurse compact agreement.

Answer:

We have reached out to NCSBN and their NLC legal counsel and asked if this could interfere with our compliance with the nurse compact agreement. The concern right now is changing language from

expiration to renewal. There is no canceled status in NURSIS and we would be out of compliance.

Board Question: Unprofessional conduct is this just license renewal or any unprofessional conduct discipline for the last 21 years. Would that be all that all violations be wiped? Sexual abuse, drug diversions, domestic abuse, etc?

Answer: The Board of Nursing is trying to clarify this as it's not clear to us either. This will be brought to the Legislator attention.

Board Question: Task Force for the Board that suggested amendments to the statute. Representative Pickert was invited to join this task force as well as other organizations. Was there any conversation or discussion about the specifics of this separate bill that was introduced by Representative Pickert as part of the task force?

Answer: The Task Force did have a well-represented group invited to join the task force. They represented the industry and the nursing profession and that included nurse professional associations, the hospital association, attorneys who would have represented nurses before the board regularly and included several other people. Representative Pickert was invited and joined this task force too.

Board Response: The consensus of the Board is that the bill is problematic and has some very serious unintended consequences not just for the board but for the public and the nurses and that we need to oppose the bill and prioritizing our concerns and the potential of the impact on nurses if we were no longer in compliance with the nurse compact agreement.

Adjourn: The Board meeting was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

Andrea Watson, Board President

Date

Michelle Terry, Secretary

Date

Carol Moreland, Executive Administrator

Date