

SESSION OF 2011

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 139

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Public Health and Welfare

Brief*

SB 139 would amend the law governing the membership of the Regional Trauma Centers (RTCs) and the Advisory Committee on Trauma (ACT) to make members of the ACT and of the RTCs “peer review officers” who would be granted peer review protection, while acting in an official capacity under this act. The bill also would make technical amendments to the current law.

A “peer review officer or committee” is defined in current law (KSA 65-4915) as:

- An individual employed, designated or appointed by, or a committee of or employed, designated or appointed by, a health care provider group and authorized to perform peer review; or
- A health care provider monitoring the delivery of health care at correctional institutions under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Corrections.

Background

The bill was introduced by Senator Vicki Schmidt at the request of the Kansas Trauma Program. Proponents of the bill testifying before the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare included representatives of the ACT and the Kansas Emergency Nurses Association. Written testimony in

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

favor of the bill was submitted by representatives of the Kansas Trauma Program in the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Hospital Association. A representative of the ACT stated that while the regional trauma plans already contain recommendations for quality improvement processes, use of the trauma registry data for the quality improvement process is not occurring because existing statute does not include peer review protections in the use of this data. A representative of the Kansas Emergency Nurses Association stated the bill would help ensure the rigorous evaluation of trauma care would occur, yet be protected. The representative further stated this type of evaluation can only benefit future patients and serve as an educational opportunity for all involved.

There were no opponents to the bill at the Senate Committee hearing.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget states that KDHE currently provides financial and staff support to the ACT and the RTC and the bill would not affect that support. The Division of the Budget indicated the bill would not have a fiscal effect on the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services.