

SESSION OF 2011

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 83

As Amended by House Committee on
Judiciary

Brief*

SB 83 would amend KSA 20-2622, which allows temporary judicial employment of retired judges. The bill would remove timing provisions requiring that a retired judge enter into a written agreement for such employment with the Kansas Supreme Court either before retirement or else within 5 years after retirement and within 30 days before the judge's retirement anniversary.

Background

A spokesperson for the Kansas Supreme Court requested the Senate Judiciary Committee introduce SB 83.

In the Senate Judiciary Committee, a representative of the Kansas Supreme Court appeared in support of SB 83, explaining that the Court operates the Senior Judge Program under KSA 20-2622. Established in 1995, the program allows the Court to contract with retired judges to perform judicial duties part-time at a reduced rate of compensation. The conferee stated the retired judges hear cases when there are conflicts, increased filings, illnesses, or similar situations. According to the Court, the time provisions under current law limit the pool of retired judges who may be used in the program, and this could create difficulty and shortages should any of the retired judges under contract be unable to complete their contract year.

*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>

No opponents provided testimony. The Senate Committee on Judiciary made no changes to the bill and recommended it be passed.

The same conferee appeared before the House Committee on Judiciary. The House Committee amended the bill to retain language requiring the chief justice, or designee, to sign senior judge agreements with the approval of a majority of the justices of the Supreme Court.

The fiscal note on the bill, as introduced, states the bill would have no fiscal effect.