

SESSION OF 2013

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2178

As Recommended by House Committee on
General Government Budget

Brief*

HB 2178 would amend the law governing longevity bonus payments to pay the longevity bonus only when money is appropriated for the bonus and when provision for the bonus is made by the Legislature.

Current law provides for a longevity bonus payment to certain classified employees. The bonus is paid on the basis of \$40 per year starting at ten years of service (\$400) up to 25 years of service (\$1,000). Only employees hired prior to June 15, 2008, are eligible for the bonus payment.

Background

The Secretary of the Department of Corrections testified in support of the bill at the House General Government Budget Committee hearing. The Secretary indicated actions taken by the Legislature in previous years to delete longevity pay without eliminating the requirement on the agencies to pay longevity payments to their employees had forced the Department of Corrections to keep vacant positions, which negatively affects facility and public safety.

The Executive Director of the Kansas Organization of State Employees (KOSE) testified in opposition to the bill. The KOSE Director stated Kansas ranks 49th among states in total state employee compensation and the effect of the bill would be to substantially harm state employees many of who

*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>

have not received a wage increase in over eight years.

The Division of Budget indicated the bill had no fiscal impact; however, \$8.5 million is identified within agencies' budgets for the purpose of longevity bonus payments in FY 2014.