

SESSION OF 2014

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2482

As Amended by House Committee on Utilities
and Telecommunications

Brief*

HB 2482 would give the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) explicit authority, on its own or in association with others, to intervene or otherwise participate in state or federal proceedings on any matter the KCC reasonably believes pertains to its official duties. In addition, the KCC would have discretion to file *amicus* briefs with any court in Kansas or the federal government, after conferring with the Attorney General.

Background

A representative of the KCC testified in support of the bill in the House Committee on Utilities and Telecommunications, stating the agency requested introduction of the bill to clearly express the KCC's existing authority to intervene in proceedings related to its official duties. A representative of the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board (CURB) submitted written testimony in support of the bill, noting that in some legal venues the authority of a state regulatory commission to participate at the federal level has been questioned. As a result, CURB supported both making the KCC's authority explicit and broadening that authority.

The House Committee on Utilities and Telecommunications amended the bill to broaden the KCC's authority by allowing it to participate in other ways, in addition to intervention; on its own, or in association with others with

*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>

similar interests; and on any matter the KCC reasonably believes pertains to its official duties.

The fiscal note submitted by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, indicated passage of the bill would have no fiscal effect for the KCC.