

SESSION OF 2016

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE
BILL NO. 182**

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

Sub. for SB 182, as amended, would repeal KSA 2015 Supp. 75-7427 to eliminate the position of Inspector General within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), amend the Kansas Whistleblower Act to remove the Inspector General from the definition of an “auditing agency”, and make technical amendments to update statutory references in the bill from 2014 to 2015.

Background

The Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare introduced the bill at the request of KDHE.

In the Senate Committee, a representative of KDHE testified in support of the original bill stating the bill was introduced after attempting to fill the Inspector General’s position numerous times in the past two years. The representative noted, on several occasions, a major factor in being unable to fill the position with a qualified candidate was the agency’s inability to negotiate an acceptable salary and stated changing the position from classified to unclassified would allow greater flexibility in salary negotiations. No other testimony was provided at the 2015 Committee hearing.

After information was provided during discussion of the bill regarding other entities at the state and federal level responsible for providing oversight like that required of the

*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>

Inspector General, the Senate Committee recommended a substitute bill be passed to eliminate the Inspector General position in KDHE. The bill, as introduced, would have changed the Inspector General from a classified employee to an unclassified employee.

The Senate Committee of the Whole made technical amendments to the bill.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, KDHE indicates passage of the bill would have no fiscal effect. No fiscal note was available on the substitute bill.