

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 62

As Amended by Senate Committee on Federal
and State Affairs

Brief*

SB 62 would authorize the State Fire Marshal to:

- Enter into contracts to establish regional search and rescue teams to respond to search and rescue incidents;
- Appoint a Search and Rescue Advisory Committee, allowing for *per diem* compensation, subsistence, mileage and other reasonable expenses, and composed of one member or representative from:
 - Each search and rescue region;
 - Kansas Division of Emergency Management;
 - Kansas National Guard/Crisis City;
 - Kansas Fire and Rescue Training Institute; and
 - Kansas Search and Rescue Dog Association.
- Call a meeting of the Search and Rescue Advisory Committee periodically; and
- Adopt rules and regulations governing the composition, training requirements, response, and operations of the regional search and rescue teams.

*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>

In addition, the bill would redesignate the Hazardous Materials Energy Fund of the State Fire Marshal as the Emergency Response Fund (ERF), allowing for expenditures to establish and maintain regional emergency response teams. The bill would authorize the Director of Accounts and Reports to transfer, upon certification by the State Fire Marshal, funding from the Fire Marshal Fee Fund to the ERF to bring the balance of the ERF to \$500,000.

The bill also would add members of a regional search and rescue team or regional hazardous materials response team contracting with the State Fire Marshal in connection with authorized training or upon activation for an emergency response to the existing definition of “employee” for purposes of immunity from tort liability.

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs. At the Senate Committee hearing on the bill, proponents included the State Fire Marshal and the Chairperson of the Kansas Search and Rescue Working Group (KSARWG). The State Fire Marshal and the KSARWG Chairperson provided background information on search and rescue collapse response in the state. The proponents stated this bill would center search and rescue collapse response with the State Fire Marshal’s Office, providing funding stabilization and centralized administrative support that local departments do not have. No neutral or opponent testimony was offered on the bill.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to change the effective date of the bill to upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget states the State Fire Marshal estimates additional expenditures of \$200,000, all from agency fee funds, and 2.0 additional non-FTE unclassified permanent positions in FY 2016 if the bill, as introduced, is enacted. Of that amount, \$113,574 would be for salaries and wages and \$86,426 would be for training and reimbursement of expenses. For FY 2017, the agency estimates additional expenditures of \$250,000, all from agency fee funds. Of that amount, \$114,103 would be for salaries and wages and \$135,897 would be for training and reimbursement of expenses. The \$50,000 increase is attributed to additional training required to receive certification from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for members of the regional emergency response, search, and rescue teams to respond to natural disasters. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2016 Governor's Budget Report*.