

SESSION OF 2022

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 343

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

SB 343, as amended, would replace statutory references to “hearing impairment” and similar terms with “hard of hearing,” “hearing loss,” or “deaf.” The bill would also make technical amendments.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare at the request of Senator O’Shea on behalf of a constituent.

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

In the Senate Committee hearing, Senator O’Shea and representatives from We the Deaf People and the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provided **proponent** testimony, stating that “hearing impaired” is viewed as a negative term to most people who are deaf. The bill would align statutory language with the terms preferred by persons with hearing loss.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by the Kansas Association of the Deaf, Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns, and Kansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (KSLHA).

No neutral or **opponent** testimony was provided.

*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>

The Senate Committee amended the bill to update language in four additional locations in statute at the request of KSLHA, updating “speech and hearing conditions and diseases” to “speech, language, and hearing disorders” and “speech and hearing impairments” to “speech or language disorders.”

Senate Committee of the Whole

The bill appeared on General Orders on February 15, 2022. The Senate Committee of the Whole made a technical amendment to the bill, reinserting a word that was struck in error.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the bill would have no fiscal effect.

Hearing loss; statutory terminology