

SESSION OF 2023

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 5**

As Recommended by Senate Committee on  
Public Health and Welfare

**Brief\***

SB 5 would amend the Kansas Telemedicine Act (Act) to prevent the prescribing of drugs intended to induce an abortion via telemedicine. The bill would define “abortion procedure” as the prescribing of drugs intended to induce an abortion. The bill also would restrict the governor’s power during a state of emergency to alter or suspend the provisions of the Act related to the delivery of any abortion procedures via telemedicine.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by Senator Steffen.

***Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare***

In the Senate Committee hearing on February 15, 2023, **proponent** testimony was provided by Senator Steffen, a precinct committeewoman, and a representative from the Insight Women’s Center who stated the objective of the bill is to clarify terminology in the Kansas Telemedicine Act to prohibit the use of telemedicine to prescribe drugs intended to cause an abortion.

Written-only proponent testimony was received from five private citizens and four precinct committee persons.

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\*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>

Written-only **opponent** testimony was received from a representative of the League of Women Voters of Kansas and two private citizens.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note on the bill prepared by the Division of the Budget, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Office of the Governor state enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on agency operations. The Kansas State Board of Healing Arts indicates any increase in workload could be managed within existing resources.

Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

Telemedicine; Kansas Telemedicine Act; abortion; chemical abortion; state of emergency