

SESSION OF 2011

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2336

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Ways and Means

Brief*

HB 2336 would create the Kansas Employment First Initiative Act and the Kansas Employment First Oversight Commission. The bill would require state programs and services which support employment of persons with disabilities to consider, as their first option, competitive and integrated employment for persons with disabilities. The bill would not require an employer to give preference to hiring persons with a disability.

The bill would require all state agencies to follow the policy for employment by coordinating and collaborating efforts among agencies. In addition, agencies would have to share data and information whenever possible across systems in order to track progress. State agencies would be authorized to adopt rules and regulations to implement the Act.

The bill directs the Governor to designate a cabinet agency as the lead agency to compile data and coordinate the preparation of the annual report at the direction of the Kansas Employment First Commission.

The bill would establish the Kansas Employment First Oversight Commission as a five-member commission, with members serving three-year terms. Each of the following would have one appointment to the Commission: Speaker of the House of Representatives, Minority Leader of the House

*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>

of Representatives, President of the Senate, Minority Leader of the Senate, and Governor. The Commission would meet upon call of the chair at least four times per year.

By January 1st of each year, the Commission would be required to submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature. The report would detail progress made toward the goals and objectives as well as identify barriers for achieving outcomes and effective strategies and policies to help realize the Employment First Initiative Act.

Background

The Senate Committee amended the bill to reinsert the creation of the Kansas Employment First Oversight Commission. In addition, the Senate Committee added the definition of competitive employment and integrated setting.

Proponents of the bill in the House included representatives of Disability Rights Center of Kansas, Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas, and Johnson County Development Services. Several individuals testified as proponents. Written testimony in support of the bill was submitted by representatives of Independence Inclusion Innovation, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Keys for Networking, Inc., and the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns.

No opponents testified during the House Committee hearing.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Specify that the bill would not require hiring preferences;
- Delete creation of an oversight commission; and

- Authorize the Governor to designate a lead agency to administer the Act rather than statutorily designate the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill's title to describe the contents of the bill.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, in consultation with the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, the bill, as introduced, would have required expenditures of \$51,993 from the State General Fund and 0.5 FTE positions. This amount includes \$40,578 for salary and benefits, \$6,815 for other operational expenditures, and \$4,600 for costs associated with the commission.