

SESSION OF 2012

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 326

As Amended by Senate Committee on Public
Health and Welfare

Brief*

SB 326, as amended, would replace current statutory eligibility criteria for the receipt of extended care permit (ECP) preventive dental hygiene services by children ages birth to five, children in public and nonpublic schools from kindergarten through grade 12, and children participating in youth organizations with a single requirement that such children who are dentally underserved would be targeted for dental services. Technical amendments also were made to the bill.

Under current law, children ages birth to five, children in public and nonpublic schools from kindergarten through grade 12, and children participating in youth organizations are eligible to receive preventative dental services by ECP dental hygienists if the requirements of participation in Medicaid, HealthWave, or free or reduced lunch programs or Indian health services are met.

Background

The bill was introduced at the request of Oral Health Kansas. The Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare heard testimony in favor of the bill from representatives of Oral Health Kansas, the Galena School District, and Grace Med. Written testimony in favor of the bill was provided by representatives of the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU), the Kansas Dental

*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>

Association, the Kansas Dental Hygienists Association, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Bureau of Oral Health, and a dentist in private practice. The Oral Health Kansas representative stated a 2010 work group, which included dental hygienists, a dentist, a school superintendent, a Medicaid program staff member, and a staff member from the KDHE Bureau of Oral Health learned that students in some school districts were not able to see an ECP dental hygienist because the eligibility criteria for the service is too narrow. The Galena School District Superintendent indicated the district went from barely meeting the minimum statutory requirements to one that serves all of the oral health needs for many students through the ECP services provided in the schools. The school district representative noted the lack of oral care could be eased if more freedom were granted to allow hygienists access to more children. No opposing or neutral testimony was presented to the Senate Committee.

The Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare amendment to the bill would remove current qualifying criteria for children to receive ECP dental services in schools and instead would target dental services to children who are dentally underserved. The bill originally would have added children who have not been seen by a dentist during the previous 12 months for a dental examination to the eligibility criteria. This provision also is deleted by the amendment.

The fiscal note on the original bill prepared by the Division of the Budget states the Department of Education indicated there would be no additional costs to school districts as a result of the passage of the bill. The fiscal note also states the Kansas Dental Board stated there would be no changes to the fees or process for issuing dental hygienist extended care permits.