

SESSION OF 2014

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2577

As Amended by House Committee on Children
and Seniors

Brief*

HB 2577, as amended, would amend the Newborn Infant Protection Act (Act) to protect disclosure of the name or other identifiable information of a parent or custodian who voluntarily surrenders physical custody of an infant under the Act, unless reasonable suspicion of child abuse exists, and to protect the person or facility receiving the child from civil and criminal liability for any action taken under the Act.

The parent or custodian would not be required to reveal personally identifiable information, but could offer information concerning the child's familial or medical history. The bill also would clarify that the person or facility to whom a child is delivered would not be required to reveal the name or other identifiable information of the person who delivered the child, unless there was reasonable suspicion of child abuse.

Background

The House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice introduced the bill. At the hearing before the House Committee on Children and Seniors, Representative Pauls testified in favor of the bill, stating the purpose of the Act is to prevent a child from being thrown away or abandoned when a parent is unable to keep the child and to keep the identity of the parent confidential. She indicated the need to amend the Act arose from an incident in which a photograph of a mother

*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>

who had left a child at a Kansas hospital was released and published by the media. There was no other testimony.

The House Committee amended the bill to add “other personally identifiable information” to the type of information a person or facility to whom a child is delivered would not be required to reveal about the person who delivered the child, unless there was reasonable suspicion of child abuse.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Department for Children and Families states passage of the bill would not increase the number of children receiving foster care services and would not change state revenues or expenditures.