

SESSION OF 2014

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2675

As Amended by House Committee on
Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

Brief*

HB 2675, as amended, would revise provisions of the State Use Law as it pertains to the definition for certified businesses and to procurement negotiating committees.

The definition of “certified business,” as that term is used in the State Use Law, a program that encourages state agencies, institutions, and school districts to purchase goods and services from businesses that employ Kansans with disabilities, would be amended. In order to be certified by the Director of Purchases, and in addition to other requirements, at least 20 percent of the business’s employees must be Kansas residents with a disability, and the level of health insurance coverage must be equal to the level of benefits received by state employees. The bill would reduce the employment requirement from 20 percent to 10 percent. The bill also would remove the equivalent level of benefits standard that certified businesses currently must meet.

In certain instances, when a state agency plans to purchase services or technical products, a procurement negotiating committee, consisting of representatives of that agency, the Division of Purchases, and the Department of Administration, may be appointed to negotiate the terms of the agreement. The bill would allow negotiating committees to consider the involvement of certified businesses.

*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>

Background

During the House Committee hearing, Representative Crum and representatives of not-for-profit organizations and certified businesses spoke in favor of the bill, stating the legislation would clarify and broaden the applicability of the Bidder Preference Program. There was no neutral or opponent testimony.

The House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development amended the bill by deleting the word wholesaler in the “certified business” definition and inserting the term “distributor.”

No fiscal note was available at the time the bill was heard.