

SESSION OF 2016

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2578

As Recommended by House Committee on
Health and Human Services

Brief*

HB 2578 would amend the School Sports Head Injury Prevention Act by revising the definition of “health care provider” to mean a licensee of the healing arts as defined in KSA 2015 Supp. 65-2802(d). This definition would add persons licensed to practice chiropractic medicine as health care providers who would be eligible to evaluate and provide to an injured athlete a written clearance to return to play or practice after suffering a concussion or head injury. The current definition in the Act includes only persons licensed by the State Board of Healing Arts (Board) to practice medicine and surgery.

Background

At the House Committee on Health and Human Services hearing, representatives of the Kansas Chiropractic Association and a private citizen testified as proponents of the bill. Written-only testimony in support of the bill was received from a representative of the Cleveland Chiropractic College of Kansas City, four doctors of chiropractic medicine, a representative of Cheney High School, and two private citizens. Proponents of the bill discussed the training and education of chiropractors, stating chiropractors are qualified to treat and monitor concussions. Proponents also emphasized small communities often do not have immediate access to doctors other than chiropractors.

*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>

Representatives of the Kansas Medical Society and the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine testified as opponents of the bill. Written-only testimony in opposition to the bill was received from a physician. Opponents of the bill discussed the seriousness of brain injuries and the complexity of treating concussions, stating that the level of training a physician receives makes physicians best suited to diagnose and treat sports-related head injuries. No neutral testimony was provided.

During the 2015 Legislative Session, the House Committee on Health and Human Services recommended HB 2016 favorably for passage. HB 2016 had identical language to HB 2578. No action was taken by the House Committee of the Whole, and the bill was stricken from the calendar on March 4, 2015.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget states the enactment of the bill could result in an increase in the number of complaints or reports filed with the Board, but a fiscal effect could not be determined.