

SESSION OF 2016

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 225

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Federal and State Affairs

Brief*

SB 225 would enact the Interstate Compact for Recognition of Emergency Medical Personnel Licensure (Compact). The Compact would be designed to achieve the following purposes and objectives:

- Increase public access to emergency medical service (EMS) personnel;
- Enhance states' ability to protect the public's health and safety, especially patient safety;
- Encourage the cooperation of member states in the areas of EMS personnel licensure and regulation;
- Support licensing of military members who are separating from an active duty tour and their spouses;
- Facilitate the exchange of information between member states regarding EMS personnel licensure, adverse action, and significant investigatory information;
- Promote compliance with the laws governing EMS personnel practice in each member state; and

*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>

- Invest all member states with the authority to hold EMS personnel accountable through the mutual recognition of member state licenses.

The Compact would create and establish a joint public agency known as the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice (Commission), with each member state limited to one delegate who would have one vote with regard to the promulgation of rules and creation of bylaws and would participate in the business and affairs of the Commission.

Oversight of the Compact would be the responsibility of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the state government in each member state, and each state would be required to take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate the Compact's purposes and intent. Provisions of the Compact and the rules promulgated by the Commission would have standing as statutory law.

The Compact would come into effect on the date on which the Compact is enacted into law in the tenth member state. The provisions that would become effective at that time would be limited to the powers granted to the Commission relating to assembly and promulgation of rules. Any member state could withdraw from the Compact by enacting a statute repealing the Compact, but the withdrawal would not take effect until six months after enactment of the repealing statute.

Background

The bill was introduced during the 2015 Legislative Session by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs.

At the Senate Committee hearing on the bill in 2016, the Executive Director of the Emergency Medical Services Board provided testimony in favor of the bill, stating the bill would allow better protection for Kansas EMS providers, realign the

focus on access to emergency patient care, and reduce cost and confusion to Kansas EMS providers who may otherwise need to maintain licensure and certification in multiple jurisdictions. The Executive Director stated the Compact has been enacted in Colorado and Texas and the remaining border states qualify to enact the Compact and have stated their desire to pursue passage during their respective legislative sessions. Further, the Executive Director stated that by being one of the first ten states to enact the Compact, Kansas would have a seat on the Commission during the initial promulgation of rules.

A representative of the Mid-America Regional Council subcommittee regarding emergency medical services (MARCER) also provided testimony in favor of the bill, describing several areas in Kansas where Kansas EMS personnel regularly cross over the state line into other states to provide EMS services and stating the Compact would provide legal clarity to those actions.

Written testimony in favor of the bill was provided by the Chair of the Kansas Region VI EMS Council and the President of the Kansas State Firefighters Association.

There was no neutral or opponent testimony at the time of the Senate Committee hearing.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget in 2015, the Emergency Medical Services Board estimated additional expenditures of \$40,000 in FY 2016 and \$30,000 in FY 2017 from agency fee funds if the bill is enacted. Of the FY 2016 and FY 2017 amounts, \$25,000 would be for the Compact annual membership fee; \$10,000 would be one-time costs in FY 2016 for a coordinated database and reporting system; and \$5,000 would be for a delegate from the Emergency Medical Services Board to travel to Commission meetings twice a year. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 225 is not reflected in *The FY 2016 or FY 2017 Governor's Budget Report*.