

SESSION OF 2018

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2562

As Amended by House Committee on Federal
and State Affairs

Brief*

HB 2562, as amended, would create law related to providing audio and video broadcasts of legislative meetings.

The bill would direct the Legislative Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO) to equip all committee rooms in the Capitol with audio and video broadcasting equipment. The CITO would be directed to implement the provisions of the bill using the same amount of moneys appropriated for such broadcasts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

The bill would require audio broadcasts of all legislative committee meetings convening in the Capitol that are open to the public, including proceedings of both legislative chambers, to be made available to the public on the Internet beginning on January 1, 2019. The bill would require video broadcasts of all such meetings beginning on January 1, 2020. The broadcasts would be archived on the internet for the duration of the legislative biennium in which the broadcasts are recorded.

“Committee” would be defined to mean any standing committee, subcommittee, conference committee, interim committee, or any committee that is established by law or by the presiding officer of either legislative chamber.

In the event of equipment failure, either legislative chamber or any committee could suspend the broadcasting

*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>

requirements by a majority vote when the purpose is not to avoid public access requirements.

The bill would require the CITO to submit a report to the Legislature on the accessibility of legislative proceedings to the public on or before January 15, 2020, and each January 15 thereafter. The bill would require the report include the volume of traffic on the legislative website and the number of times audio and video proceedings were accessed during the preceding year.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Representative Whitmer. In the House Committee hearing, proponent testimony was provided by Representative Whitmer and a private citizen. Proponents indicated all committee rooms are currently wired for audio broadcasts, and the bill would provide for video broadcasting abilities by January 1, 2020.

Written proponent testimony was provided by Representative Clayton, the Kansas Association of Broadcasters, the Kansas Press Association, and the Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government. No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to allow for a majority vote to suspend broadcasts in the event of equipment failure, and to require the CITO to submit annual reports to the Legislature on the accessibility of legislative proceedings to the public.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, Legislative Administrative Services (LAS) indicated no funding has been appropriated for FY 2018 for audio and video broadcasts. However, LAS estimated the cost to purchase necessary hardware and software to live stream from committee rooms

and both chambers of the Legislature, including archiving costs, to be \$299,650 from the State General Fund (SGF). Of the total, equipment would cost \$77,700, professional installation services would cost \$40,000, and closed-captioning services would cost \$181,950.

LAS also indicated 2017 HB 2002 limited expenditures to not exceed \$247,399 from the Legislature's FY 2019 operating budget to administer and supervise live streaming of legislative proceedings. As a result, enactment of HB 2562 would require an additional appropriation of \$52,251 from the SGF, as well as a new proviso in an appropriations bill to allow for additional expenditures for audio and video streaming in FY 2019. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2019 Governor's Budget Report*.