

SESSION OF 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 417

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Public Health and Welfare

Brief*

SB 417 amends a statute that is a part of an act that authorizes the establishment and operation of rural health networks. The amendment changes the definition of a critical access hospital for the purposes of the act. Under the new definition, a critical care hospital is a member of a rural health network that has 24-hour emergency services available; has not more than 15 acute care beds or, in the case of a facility having swing beds, not more than a total of 25 beds, with not more than 15 available for acute inpatient care at any time; provides acute inpatient care for a period that does not exceed 96 hours per patient on an annual average; and provides 24-hour-a-day nursing services when any bed is occupied or the facility is open to provide services to patients.

Background

SB 417 was requested by the Director of the Office of Local and Rural Health in the Department of Health and Environment who also appeared before the Senate Committee to support the bill as did a representative of the Kansas Hospital Association. The bill reflects a change in the federal definition of a critical care hospital to allow the limitation on length of stay for acute care patients to be based on an annual average. The new definition may be advantageous for small rural hospitals that have qualified as critical care hospitals. The new language also makes it clear the Kansas law complies with Medicare's limit on the number of acute care beds a critical care hospital may have.

*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/cgi-bin/fulltext/bills.cgi>

The fiscal note on SB 417 indicates no additional costs will be incurred as a result of passage of SB 417.