

SESSION OF 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 541

As Amended by House Select Committee on
Security

Brief*

The House Select Committee on Security amends the bill to include volunteer members of regional emergency medical response teams as a person in the "service of the state" in connection with authorized training or upon activation due to an emergency incident (for the purposes of the Workers' Compensation Act). Additionally, the bill as amended would provide preventive medical care and treatment in the event of a medical emergency to ambulance attendants and drivers, members of a regional emergency medical response team, or those serving as a volunteer in that capacity. Also, the bill sets the average gross weekly wage of a person serving as a member of a regional emergency medical response team, or a volunteer "in the service of the state" for the above purpose, at a rate equal to that of a state employee performing that same duty, and directs the Adjutant General's Office to implement a program to assist local entities in developing a terrorism preparedness program.

SB 541 authorizes the Division of Emergency Management of the Adjutant General's Office to develop and administer a program to provide financial assistance to cities, counties, or interjurisdictional disaster agencies for the development and implementation of a terrorism preparedness program. The Division also is granted authority, with the assistance and advice of the Commission on Emergency Planning and Response, to develop, implement, and administer a plan for regional emergency medical response teams.

The bill adds "terrorism" to the definition of disaster.

*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 Senate Committee amendments are technical and clarifying in nature.

Background

The Adjutant General, representatives from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), the Governor's Office, Board of Emergency Medical Services, and the Kansas Emergency Management Association testified in support of the bill.

In the fiscal note, the Adjutant General's Office stated that the estimated costs to train students would be \$220,000 (2.0 FTE positions) and the costs to train six emergency medical response teams would be \$240,000, for a total training cost of \$460,000 in FY 2003 which would come out of the State General Fund. The agency estimates that \$310,000 annually would be necessary to operate the program after FY 2003.

KDHE anticipated additional costs if KDHE resources are utilized. However, the precise estimate of the fiscal effect to KDHE is not available at this time.

The amendments were offered by a representative of the Governor's Office and adopted by the Committee. The bill amends current law (as it relates to the Workers' Compensation Act) to include volunteer members of regional emergency medical response teams to be considered a person in "the service of the state" in connection with authorized training or upon activation due to an emergency incident. Additionally, the bill as amended provides reasonable and necessary preventive medical care and treatment for ambulance attendants and drivers as defined in subsection (b) of KSA 65-6112, or a member of a regional emergency medical response team as provided by the passage of this act. In addition, SB 541 provides the same average gross weekly wage to those members serving on a regional emergency medical response team or as a volunteer "in the service of the state" as a state employee performing the same duty, and directs the Adjutant General's Office (with the assistance and advice of the Commission on Emergency Planning and Response) to develop and administer a program to provide financial assistance to local entities for the development and implementation of terrorism preparedness programs.