

SESSION OF 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 583

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Public Health and Welfare

Brief*

SB 583 amends two of the statutes in the act under which physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are registered and certified.

Amendments change the definitions of the terms "physical therapy," and "physical therapist" and create a new definition of "practice of physical therapy." As amended, the latter definition includes activities that may be carried out by physical therapists, but are not exclusively reserved to the practice of physical therapy. Certain practices, including the practice of the healing arts, are specifically excluded from the practice of physical therapy. New restrictions are created on the use of any words or abbreviations that imply or advertise that physical therapy is provided unless such services are provided by a person registered or certified as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. Other restrictions are placed on the use of the terms, physiotherapy and physical therapy, by a business or person unless a person licensed or registered to provide such treatment is involved. Violation of the restrictions on the use of words or abbreviations relating to physical therapy or physical therapist assistants is made a class B nonperson misdemeanor.

Background

SB 583 was introduced at the request of the Kansas Physical Therapist Association whose representatives spoke in support of the bill at the Committee hearing. In addition, the Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Kansas, four persons who identified themselves as consumers, and a physical therapist in private

*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>

practice spoke in support of the bill. A representative of the Kansas Chiropractic Association spoke in opposition to specific provisions of the bill. The Executive Director of the Board of Healing Arts responded to Committee questions and provided information at the request of the Committee. The Senate Committee amendments were developed by a group of persons with an interest in the bill at the request of the Chair.

The fiscal note on SB 583 indicates passage would not have a fiscal effect on the Board of Healing Arts.