

SESSION OF 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 637

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Ways and Means

Brief*

SB 637 would appropriate \$600,000 from the State General Fund to the Judicial Branch for operating expenses in FY 2002. The bill would be effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

The Judicial Branch reports that, unless additional funding is made available in the current fiscal year, it will be forced to furlough nonjudicial employees at least three and more likely four days before the end of the fiscal year. The shortfall is in spite of cost-saving measures that were implemented at the beginning of the fiscal year, including:

- A 60-day delay in filling nonjudicial vacancies, which now has been extended to 90 days;
- A 25 percent reduction in the amount of funds available to hire temporary workers;
- The elimination of travel for district magistrate judges from outlying districts into districts that do not have district magistrate judges;
- The elimination of travel for Court of Appeals hearings; and
- Other reductions specific to each judicial district.

*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>

According to the Office of Judicial Administration, if furloughs become necessary the intention of the Judicial Branch would be to impose no more than one day of furlough per month and certainly no more than one day per pay period. The Senate Ways and Means Committee amended the bill to make it effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register* in order to give the Judicial Branch as much advance notice as possible as to whether the money would be available.