

SESSION OF 2002

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2609**

As Recommended by House Committee on  
New Economy

**Brief\***

HB 2609 would allow the State Fair Board to enter into negotiations and contracts for the construction and financing of a hotel and convention center on the state fairgrounds in Hutchinson. The contract authority created by the bill could include long-term, renewable leases.

Under the bill, the State Fair Board would have the authority to grant the right to construct the hotel and convention center on state property at the state fairgrounds.

Under the bill, the State Fair Board would determine the procedures for contract negotiations for the hotel and convention center, thereby avoiding certain administrative procedures for other state building projects. However, the State Fair Board would be required to advise and consult the Joint Committee on State Building Construction prior to entering into any contract for the construction of a hotel and convention center.

At the termination of the lease, the hotel and convention center would become the property of the State.

**Background**

The House Committee held a hearing on HB 2609, at which time Representative Mike O'Neal and representatives of the Kansas State Fair testified in favor of the bill. Conferees told the Committee that there is a lack of quality lodging rooms in Hutchinson to support the events

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\*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>

that take place during the year, and the addition of a hotel and convention center on the fairgrounds would enhance the rentability of the fairgrounds for additional non-fair events and conventions.

The Division of the Budget reports that passage of HB 2609 would not have an immediate fiscal effect, noting that there may be revenue to the State Fair from a lease agreement as well as benefits to the community, but those amounts are unknown.