

SESSION OF 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2782

As Amended by House Committee on
Federal and State Affairs

Brief*

HB 2782 would enact the "Religious Freedom Restoration Act." The bill would prohibit the state and local units of government from substantially burdening a person's exercise of religion, except when the burden was to further a compelling governmental interest. A person whose religious exercise has been burdened in violation of the act could bring a judicial proceeding to obtain appropriate relief. The prevailing party could receive attorney fees and costs.

The House Committee amended the bill to exempt from the act any person confined in a state or local correctional or juvenile detention facility.

Background

Representative Dan Williams and representatives of Liberty Council and Educators for Christ testified in favor of the bill. Testifying in opposition to the bill were the Kansas Secretary of Corrections and a representative of the Kansas Association of School Boards.

The fiscal note indicates that the Attorney General's office estimates expenditures of \$120,000 to handle the increased litigation. The Department of Corrections and the Juvenile Justice Authority anticipate additional unknown expenditures.

*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>