

SESSION OF 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2797

As Recommended by House Committee on
Federal and State Affairs

Brief*

HB 2797 would enact the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which would define "unborn child" as a living fetus from the time of conception, and would add a new crime of "violence to an unborn child" to the Kansas Criminal Code. The bill would not apply to any act committed by the mother of the unborn child, any medical procedure performed by a physician or other licensed medical professional at the request of the pregnant woman or her legal guardian, or the lawful dispensation of lawfully prescribed medication.

Background

Representative Tony Powell and Representative Cook testified in support of the bill.

Testifying in opposition to the bill were representatives of the Kansas Choice Alliance, Planned Parenthood, and a medical clinic.

The fiscal note states that the Office of Judicial Administration is unable to estimate the fiscal effect of expanding the types of activities prohibited under the criminal code. The Office of the Attorney General indicates that the fiscal effect would probably not be noticeable, especially since there already is a similar statute regarding injury to pregnant women. The Board of Healing Arts and the Insurance Commissioner do not anticipate any fiscal effect from the passage of the bill. The Department of Health and Environment indicates that the fiscal effect would be limited to the cost of reprinting the Women's Right to Know Act materials (\$35,406 from the State General Fund).

*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>

