

SESSION OF 2003

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 259

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Ways and Means

Brief*

SB 259 would delay by one year the continued expansion of the Kansas Court of Appeals from 10 members to 14, the effect being that the twelfth judge would be added January 1, 2005, the thirteenth on January 1, 2006, and the fourteenth on January 1, 2007. The proposed bill would not affect the eleventh judge, who was authorized to be added January 1, 2003.

Background

Legislation enacted by the 2001 Legislature expands the Court of Appeals from 10 members to 14 members, with one new judge being added each year, beginning January 1, 2003, and ending January 1, 2006. Because of the state's revenue situation, the Ways and Means Subcommittee on the Judicial Branch's budget recommended that the next judge not be added until January 1 of 2005, with the remaining two judges being added in January 1 of 2006 and 2007. (An identical bill, HB 2418, has been introduced in the House.)

Gary W. Rulon, Chief Judge of the Kansas Court of Appeals, testified before the Senate Committee in favor of the bill, in recognition of the state's financial situation.

The Governor's placement budget for FY 2004 is identical to the Judicial Branch's FY 2003 budget and therefore does not contain a specific increase for the addition of another judge in FY 2004.

*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/kldr>