

SESSION OF 2004

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 511

As Amended by House Committee on
Health and Human Services

Brief*

SB 511, as amended, concerns the requirement that newborn infants be screened for hearing loss. The bill requires screening to be done within five days of birth, requires that screening be for any hearing loss, and requires that any person performing a screening provide the Secretary of Health and Environment any information the Secretary requires by rule and regulation. The bill further directs the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations establishing standards for screening equipment and for the qualifications and training of persons conducting screening, establishing protocols to be followed in performing newborn infant screening, establishing responsibilities for medical care facility administrators, and setting out reports and other information necessary to carry out the act.

The House Committee amendment deletes the directive to the Secretary to establish the responsibility of any primary medical care provider or other person who performs newborn screening.

Background

The Secretary of Health and Environment developed rules and regulations relating to the subject matter of SB 511 which were approved by the Attorney General and the Department of Administration. However, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations questioned the statutory authority of the Secretary to adopt such regulations under the existing law and drafted and introduced SB 511 to give the Secretary such authority. The Senate Committee amendments were requested by a conferee representing the Department of Health and Environment. The House Committee

*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>

amendment was requested by the Kansas Medical Society and the Department of Health and Environment.