

SESSION OF 2004

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 558

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Financial Institutions and Insurance

Brief*

SB 558, as amended, concerns the Business Health Partnership Act. The bill:

- ! allows the health committee created by the Act to specify that the small employers who have not offered health insurance to their employees in the previous two years would be eligible for coverage under a plan approved by the committee;
- ! makes the committee responsible for:
 - " arranging for affordable health care coverage for eligible employees of small employers, and for evaluating and creating the opportunity to improve health care provided by plans in the small group health insurance program;
 - " setting benefit levels and establishing performance measures for health care coverage created for this program that include quality, preventive health, and other supplementary measures; and
 - " limiting access to any program subsidy of premiums to the projected annualized expenditure;
- ! requires the committee to report annually on quality assurance measures, disease prevention activities, disease management activities, and on other activities or programs the committee decides to include;
- ! directs the Business Health Partnership and the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services Office of Medical Policy and Medicaid to work together to develop a single employee application that may be used by the health plan and the Medicaid

*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>

and state children's health insurance program (HealthWave) to determine eligibility; and

- ! requires the Business Health Partnership to screen employee applications for subsidy eligibility and dependent children for Medicaid and HealthWave premium support eligibility.

Background

SB 558 was requested by the Governor's Office of Health Planning and Finance whose Director explained that the changes proposed by the bill are designed to strengthen the Health Policy Committee's oversight of the Business Health Partnership's activities and to broaden the language regarding employer contributions. The bill as amended is supported by the Insurance Commissioner.