

SESSION OF 2004

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2350

As Recommended by House Committee on
Health and Human Services

Brief*

HB 2350 concerns newborn infants. The bill requires the vital statistic records of the Department of Health and Environment to be screened each month to identify newborn infants who are low birth weight, have a five-minute APGAR of three or less, or have one of a specified set of genetic exceptionalities defined by the Secretary of Health and Environment. The bill requires the information obtained from the screens to be confidential and not disclosed except as provided by law. The Secretary is to notify parents and legal guardians of the infant's screening results and, when necessary, provide additional information regarding the availability of voluntary and free child assessments to be found in the local community. The Secretary shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of the bill.

Background

HB 2350 was introduced at the request of the Kansas Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services, whose representative explained that the bill will enable a routine screening of birth certificates to identify certain conditions that have been shown to sometimes correspond with later developmental delays and to notify parents or guardians of free services for which they might qualify.

The bill is supported by Dr. Chet Johnson, Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, the Director of the Special Education and Tiny K Services for the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center, and the Department of Health and Environment.

*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>

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget indicates passage of the bill would have a fiscal effect of approximately \$9,700.