

SESSION OF 2004

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2758**

As Amended by Senate Committee on  
Elections and Local Government

**Brief\***

HB 2758 would amend the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) to add two new exceptions from the openness requirement: military discharge papers and the location of a safe house or shelter.

Specifically, the exceptions are as follows:

- ! Any information or material received by the register of deeds of a county from military discharge papers (DD Form 214) except to the military dischargee, the dischargee's immediate family members and lineal descendants; the dischargee's heirs, agents or assigns; a person who is a licensed funeral director and who has custody of the body of the deceased dischargee; a department or agency of the federal government or political subdivision when required; when the form is required to perfect the claim of military service or honorable discharge or a claim of the dependent of the dischargee; and upon the written approval of the commissioner of veterans' affairs, to a person conducting research.
  
- ! Information that would reveal the location of a shelter or safe-house or similar place where persons are provided protection from abuse.

The Senate Committee amendment was clarifying in nature.

**Background**

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\*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 bill was supported by Representative Carol Beggs and the Kansas Register of Deeds Association to protect the privacy of veterans, *e.g.*, their social security numbers and other personal information who voluntarily file this form with the county register of deeds. The register of deeds representative suggested an amendment to clarify that certain persons would have access to this information.

The bill was opposed by a representative of the Kansas Press Association who said there is no public purpose to file a veteran's DD Form 214 with the county register of deeds office and this bill would require the register of deeds to mix public and private records in the same office. The bill was also opposed by two historians and a Johnson County newspaper publisher.

Representative Jene Vickrey offered the safe house amendment.

The bill has no fiscal effect on the state.