

SESSION OF 2005

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2336

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Public Health and Welfare

Brief*

HB 2336 would amend existing law regarding the licensure of optometrists. Specifically, the bill would require applicants for an initial optometry license or license renewal for the two-year period commencing June 1, 2008 to meet the requirements of and become a therapeutic licensee. The bill also would require that applicants for a new or renewal license for the biennial period commencing June 1, 2010 meet the requirements for and become both a therapeutic and a glaucoma licensee.

KSA 65-1501a would be amended to include in the definition of oral drugs, other oral drugs with clinically accepted ocular uses. KSA 74-1505 would be amended to allow the interprofessional advisory committee to review new classes of drugs with ocular uses and to advise the State Board of Examiners in Optometry about such drugs. The statute also would be amended to remove obsolete reporting language for the interprofessional advisory committee.

Background

HB 2336 was introduced by the House Committee on Health and Human Services at the request of the Kansas Optometric Association. The State Board of Examiners in Optometry supported the bill. Its representative indicated that a single level of licensure is necessary to ensure that all patients receive the highest quality of care. Under current law, optometrists have four different levels of licensure. According to the Board's testimony, 98 percent of optometrists in

*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>

Kansas hold a therapeutic license and 65 percent have a license to treat glaucoma.

The House Committee amended the bill as suggested by the Kansas Optometric Association. First, KSA 65-1501a would be amended to include in the definition of "oral drugs" other oral drugs with clinically accepted ocular uses. Second, KSA 74-1505, would be amended to allow the interprofessional advisory committee to review new classes of drugs with ocular uses and advise the Board.

The Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare further amended the bill to require optometrists to hold a therapeutic license commencing on June 1, 2008, and to hold a therapeutic and glaucoma license commencing on June 1, 2010. The Committee also deleted obsolete reporting language for the interprofessional advisory committee and made other technical changes to the bill. The Committee minutes for March 15, 2005, included a finding by the Committee that the requirement for all licensees to become therapeutic and glaucoma licensees bears a reasonable relationship to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the state.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the introduced version of the bill states that enactment would not require the Board of Examiners in Optometry to need additional staff or resources. No assessment of any fiscal impact of the House Committee's amendment was available at the time the Committee took action on the bill.