

SESSION OF 2005

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2496**

As Amended by House Committee  
of the Whole

**Brief\***

HB 2496 would amend provisions of the Occupational Therapy Practice Act, KSA 65-5402, by amending the definition of the "practice of occupational therapy." The amended definition would include among the list of health care professionals who can refer patients to occupational therapists, licensed chiropractors, and licensed physician assistants or an advanced registered nurse practitioners working pursuant to the order or direction of a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery. Under existing law, only physicians, licensed podiatrists, licensed dentists, and licensed optometrists are authorized to provide referral, supervision, order or direction for the evaluation and treatment of patients receiving occupational therapy.

The bill also would amend KSA 48-3403 regarding certain professional or occupational licenses. Specifically, a licensee who desires to engage in or practice an occupation or profession in Kansas after release from military service would be exempt from the continuing education requirement until completion of the next full licensure period.

The provision regarding the continuing education for licensees who have served in the military would become effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*. The provision of the bill regarding referrals to occupational therapists would become effective on July 1, 2005.

**Background**

HB 2496 was introduced by the House Committee on Appropriations. The bill was supported by the Kansas Occupational Therapy

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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>

Association whose representative indicated that the bill would provide parity with physical therapists. The amendatory language is identical to that included in 2004 SB 529.

There were no opponents to the bill at the time of the House Committee hearing.

The House Committee of the Whole amendments insert amended provisions of KSA 48-3403 into HB 2496. The amendments address completion of continuing education requirements for Kansas occupational or professional licensees returning from their military service. The amendments also provide that the portion of the bill regarding continuing education for professional and occupational licensees to become effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*, while the portion of the bill addressing occupational therapy referrals would become effective on July 1, 2005.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the introduced version of the bill indicates that passage of the bill would have no fiscal effect on the Board of Healing Arts.