

SESSION OF 2005

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2506

As Amended by House Committee on
Governmental Organization and Elections

Brief*

HB 2506 would require certain meetings of the Governor's Sub-Cabinet on Natural Resources to be subject to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, when convened with at least three of the state agencies of the sub-cabinet present.

The Kansas Open Meetings Act would only apply when the issue before the Sub-Cabinet group deals with the Kansas Water Authority. The Sub-Cabinet on Natural Resources includes the following: the Kansas Water Office, the State Conservation Commission, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, the Kansas Department of Agriculture, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas Animal Health Department, and the Kansas Corporation Commission.

The request for a notice of the date, time and place of a meeting of the Sub-Cabinet on Natural Resources, which is meeting to discuss issues relating to the Kansas Water Authority shall be made to the Office of the Governor.

Background

The bill was supported by Representative Sharon Schwartz who noted the bill was requested by the Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee.

The bill was opposed by the Chief Counsel to the Governor.

*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 House Committee limited coverage of the bill to meetings of the Sub-Cabinet on Natural Resources when issues relating to the Kansas Water Authority are to be discussed and deleted a requirement to publish notice of those meetings in the *Kansas Register*.

The fiscal note on the bill, as introduced, said additional expenditures would be required due to the publication in the *Kansas Register* requirement. The estimates submitted for the rate and length of the notices range from \$42 to \$75 per insertion. The number of notifications per year ranges from 52, based on one per week to 265 meetings, based on historical experience for all meetings of this Sub-Cabinet group.