

SESSION OF 2005

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON  
SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 2518**

As Amended by Senate Committee on  
Ways and Means

**Brief\***

Senate Substitute for HB 2518 would provide an aggregate death benefit of \$250,000 to the beneficiary, beneficiaries, or the estate of a member of the Kansas National Guard who dies while on federal active duty in a combat area, except as a result of suicide. The bill also authorizes death benefits for the three Kansas National Guard members who have already died in a combat zone. Approval of future death benefit payments would be authorized by the State Finance Council, with expenditures to be made from the State Emergency Fund. The bill would authorize the Adjutant General to develop guidelines and to adopt rules and regulations for the payment of the death benefit. The non-taxable death benefit is retroactively applied to deaths between November 1, 2004 and prior to July 1, 2007. The effective date is upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

**Background**

The original HB 2518 would have authorized the Adjutant General to pay the employer of a National Guard member for the cost of private health insurance. Additional language was added by the House Committee of the Whole to also allow for the termination of a cellular phone contract without a cancellation fee or suspend the service plan for any individual called to serve in uniformed military duty who is assigned to a location that makes the cellular phone inoperable.

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means amended Section 47 of 2005 Senate Substitute for HB 2482 by removing the contents of HB 2518 and inserting new language that increases the death benefit from \$125,000 to \$250,000.

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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>