

SESSION OF 2006

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2593**

As Amended by Senate Committee on  
Education

**Brief\***

HB 2593 would authorize the Board of Regents to enter into contracts for health and accident insurance or the services of a health maintenance organization for students of the state universities and their dependents. Purchase of coverage would be voluntary on the part of the student. The state universities would continue to pay an employer contribution for those students who are employees of that university. The employer contribution rate would be set by the Board of Regents.

Under current law, health insurance for student employees at the state universities is provided through the Kansas State Employees Health Care Commission. The bill would transfer that authority to the Board of Regents. In addition, the Kansas State Employees Health Care Commission would no longer be able to charge the state universities for employer contributions for health care benefits for student employees. The bill would require that the Kansas State Employees Health Care Commission continue coverage for the student employees until any contracts entered into by the Board of Regents become effective.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the Legislative Educational Planning Committee as a part of the legislative package requested by the Board of Regents. At the House Higher Education Committee hearing, a representative of the University of Kansas testified in favor of the bill. In addition, the President of the Board of Regents provided written testimony in support of the bill. There were no opponents to the bill present at the Committee hearing.

The House Higher Education Committee amended the bill to

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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>

include a provision requiring that the Kansas State Employees Health Care Commission continue coverage for the student employees until any contracts entered into by the Board of Regents become effective.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to prohibit coverage of abortions under the new health insurance policy.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to remove provisions prohibiting coverage of abortions under the new health insurance policy.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget states that the bill would have a negligible fiscal impact.