

SESSION OF 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2835

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Agriculture

Brief*

HB 2835 would enact new provisions to the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act. Specifically, the bill would allow to the Board of Veterinary Examiners to take appropriate action with respect to a veterinarian's license if there is failure to provide a written response within the time prescribed by the Board to a written request pursuant to an investigation by or on behalf of the Board. In addition, the bill would add to the examples of unprofessional conduct by including a violation of an order of the Board of Veterinary Examiners.

Further, the bill would add to the circumstances under which a veterinarian's confidentiality privilege of protecting information regarding a client would be waived. Those circumstances which would be added include:

- Reporting cruel or inhumane treatment to any animal;
- Providing information where necessary to provide care in an emergency where the absence of medical attention could be expected to place the animal's health in jeopardy; and
- Providing information where the failure to disclose vaccination information may endanger the public's health, safety, or welfare.

Finally, the bill would increase the amount of fine authority of the Board from \$2,000 to \$5,000 against a licensee for causes outlined in current law.

Background

This bill was requested by a spokesperson from the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners. At the hearing on the bill, the

*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>

spokesperson from the Board stated that the bill would better enable the Board to promote public health, safety, and welfare relative to the practice of veterinary medicine. A representative of the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association also appeared in support of the bill. There were no opponents to the bill.

The fiscal note states that passage of the bill could increase the agency's fine revenue. It also states that an estimate of the additional revenue cannot be made because the Board has discretion over whether or not to assess a fine and the amount of the fine could be different in each case.