

SESSION OF 2010

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 497**

As Amended by House Committee on  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

**Brief\***

SB 497 would add clarifying language to existing law by explicitly exempting the lawful selling, manufacturing, purchasing, possessing, or carrying of certain ordinary pocket knives from prosecution under the criminal weapons use statutes. The pocket knives covered under the change would be those having a spring, detent, or other device which creates a bias toward closure of the blade. Additionally, the bill would require that the exempted knives use hand pressure applied to a button on the blade of the knife to overcome the bias towards closure to assist in the opening of the knife.

**Background**

SB 497 was introduced by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

At the hearing, testimony in support of the bill was provided by a representative of Foulston Siefkin, LLP. The proponent stated the bill would provide clarity on the possessing of knives that are both legal and commonly used and carried.

Testimony opposing the bill was provided by a spokesman for Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police and Kansas Peace Officers Association. No neutral testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill by adding "pocket" to the description of the knives exempted under

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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>

the bill. The Committee of the Whole also adopted technical amendments.

The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources amended the bill to add the word "ordinary" to the description of the exempted pocket knives. The Committee also struck prior amendatory language that would have made the new exemption consistent with current law regarding what is considered a dangerous knife, or a dangerous or deadly weapon or instrument. It was determined that the prior amendatory language was unnecessary.

The fiscal note on the bill indicates its passage would have no fiscal impact.