

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2039

As Recommended by House Committee on
Health and Human Services

Brief*

HB 2039 would amend statutes relating to home health agencies to clarify the definition of “home health agency” for the purposes of credentialing. The bill would exempt from the definition entities that are not reimbursed by Medicare Part A and only provide services of persons licensed or certified under the Physical Therapy Practice Act and Occupational Therapy Practice Act and persons licensed as speech-language pathologists.

The bill would also make technical and conforming changes.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Health and Human Services at the request of Representative Buehler on behalf of Fox Rehabilitation.

House Committee on Health and Human Services

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of Fox Rehabilitation and the Kansas Hospital Association. Conferees generally stated that the requirements of credentialing for home health agencies can pose a significant barrier to physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists

*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 <https://klrd.gov/>

working in residential homes in Kansas. An agency providing these services to a patient who is not home health-service eligible can provide them under Medicare part B, but are currently still included under Kansas' definition of "home health agency" and are subject to home health licensing and credentialing.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a representative of Phoenix Home Care and Hospice.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services indicate that enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on either agency.

Health; Kansas Credentialing Act; physical therapy; occupational therapy; speech-language pathology; home health agencies; credentialing