

SESSION OF 2025

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE
BILL NO. 29**

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Public Health and Welfare

Brief*

Sub. for SB 29 would amend the role of a county or joint board of health or local health officer to be one that may recommend against public gatherings when necessary for the control of infectious or contagious disease. [*Note*: Current law states the county or joint board of health or local health officer is authorized to prohibit public gatherings when necessary.]

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare at the request of Senator Murphy.

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by three private citizens, who generally stated their personal experiences with various entities and public health concerns.

Written-only proponent testimony was received from 19 private citizens and five precinct committee persons.

Opponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments, Kansas Chamber, Kansas Department of Health and Environment,

*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/>

and the Kansas National Education Association. The representatives generally stated their concerns regarding the undoing of the public health infrastructure, the considerable local financial investment that would be needed, and the impact on the employer to act in the best interest of the business.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by representatives of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Health Forward Foundation, Immunize Kansas Coalition, Kansas Academy of Family Physicians, Kansas Action for Children, Kansas Association of Counties, Kansas Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics, Kansas Hospital Association, Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health, McPherson County Health Department, Nurture KC, Saline County Health Department, a nurse practitioner, and two private citizens.

The Senate Committee recommended a substitute bill be passed incorporating amendments to change the authority of a county or joint board of health or local health officer to prohibit public gatherings to one of allowing a recommendation against public gatherings.

Fiscal Information

A fiscal note was not available at the time the Senate Committee took action on the bill.

Health; local health officer; county or joint board of health; public gatherings; infectious disease