

SESSION OF 2012

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2120

As Amended by House Committee on
Government Efficiency

Brief*

HB 2120, as amended, would establish the Kansas Streamlining Government Act, which would have the purpose of improving the performance, efficiency, and operations of state government by reviewing certain state agencies, programs, boards, and commissions. The bill would exclude a group of state agencies known as fee-funded and defined in the bill.

The bill also would create the Kansas Streamlining Government Commission, which would be composed of seven members, including six members appointed by the leadership of the Legislature and one member appointed by the Governor. No more than four members could be from the same political party.

Members appointed could not hold any paid office or position within local, state, or federal government; could not be a party to any local or state government contract; and could not be lobbyists. Members would be disqualified from serving if accepting one of the prohibited positions. Members would receive subsistence allowances, mileage, and other expenses equal to rates received by members of the Legislature. All activities of the Commission would be assisted by legislative staff as authorized by the Legislative Coordinating Council.

Upon completion of its review of state government, the Commission would be required to submit reports to 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>

Governor and Legislature on or before September 1, 2011, December 31, 2011, September 1, 2012, and December 31, 2012.

The Commission would be abolished on December 31, 2012, after submitting its final report.

Background

The Managing Director of the State and Local Policy Project, Mercatus Center, George Mason University appeared in support of the bill. Written testimony supporting the bill was submitted by the Kansas Policy Institute, Wichita, KS; the Kansas Chamber of Commerce; Americans for Prosperity – Kansas; and an individual from Larned, KS.

A representative of the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association appeared in opposition to the bill, and asked that fee-supported state agencies be excluded from provisions in the bill.

A representative of the Kansas Association of Realtors appeared as neutral, and indicated general support for the bill if an amendment were added to exclude fee-supported state agencies from provisions in the bill.

The House Committee added three amendments to HB 2120. The first amendment excluded fee-funded state agencies which were listed in the bill. The second amendment reduced from five to four the number of members who could be from the same political party. The last amendment clarified the circumstances under which a member would be disqualified from serving on the Commission.

According to the fiscal note, HB 2120, as introduced, would require additional funds for Commission meeting expenses; however, because the number of meetings that would be held is unknown, the total cost cannot be precisely

determined. It is estimated that each two-day meeting would cost \$3,543, which would include \$2,775 for subsistence, mileage, and other expenses for the seven members and \$768 for an administrative assistant to staff and prepare minutes for the meeting. If it is assumed that the Commission would meet quarterly until the end of 2012, the total cost would be \$21,258 (six two-day meetings X \$3,543).