

SESSION OF 2011

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2336

As Amended by House Committee on
Commerce and Economic Development

Brief*

HB 2336 would create the Kansas Employment First Initiative Act. The bill would require state programs and services which support employment of persons with disabilities to consider, as their first option, competitive and integrated employment for persons with disabilities. The bill would not require an employer to give preference to hiring persons with a disability.

The bill would require all state agencies to follow the policy for employment by coordinating and collaborating efforts among agencies. In addition, agencies would have to share data and information whenever possible across systems in order to track progress. State agencies would be authorized to adopt rules and regulations to implement the Act.

The Governor would designate a cabinet agency to establish measurable goals and objectives for the State under the Act. The designated agency would track progress of the other state agencies to meet their goals.

By January 30 of each year, the lead agency would be required to issue an annual report to the Governor and the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Appropriations. The report would detail progress towards goals and objectives and identify barriers for achieving outcomes and effective

*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>

strategies and policies to help realize the Employment First Initiative Act.

Background

Proponents of the bill included representatives of Disability Rights Center of Kansas, Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas, and Johnson County Development Services. Several individuals testified as proponents. Written testimony in support of the bill was submitted by representatives of Independence Inclusion Innovation, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Keys for Networking, Inc., and the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns.

No opponents testified.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Specify that the bill would not require hiring preferences;
- Delete creation of an oversight commission; and
- Authorize the Governor to designate a lead agency to administer the Act rather than statutorily designate the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, in consultation with the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, the bill, as introduced, would have required expenditures of \$51,993 from the State General Fund and 0.5 FTE positions. This amount includes \$40,578 for salary and benefits, \$6,815 for other operational expenditures, and \$4,600 for cost associated with the commission.