

SESSION OF 2014

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2616**

As Recommended by House Committee on  
Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

**Brief\***

HB 2616 would require the Secretary of the Department of Labor to propose a plan for the State to provide for safe and healthful employment that is at least as effective as the standards set by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). By January 12, 2015, the Secretary would submit a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House that entailed an outline of the plan, a list of necessary changes in statute and rules and regulations required by the federal government, a list of additional staff required to implement the plan, and a projected date by which a cooperative agreement with the federal government and other states could be executed.

**Background**

During the House Committee hearing, a representative of the Associated General Contractors of Kansas spoke in favor of the bill, stating 26 states have implemented state OSHA plans. Many of those states attribute state OSHA control as a means to create a more business friendly environment.

Representatives of the Kansas AFL-CIO and the Kansas State Building and Construction Trades Council spoke in opposition to the bills, stating the federal government has the technical expertise to enforce OSHA standards. Also, if the state were to enforce workplace safety standards, additional

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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>

funding would be necessary since federal reimbursement is less than 100 percent of expenses.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, in consultation with the Department of Labor, an estimated 150 hours would be required to research and write the plan and report. The associated costs would be negligible and covered by existing resources and staff levels.