

SESSION OF 2015

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2016**

As Recommended by House Committee on  
Health and Human Services

**Brief\***

HB 2016 would amend the School Sports Head Injury Prevention Act by revising the definition of “health care provider” to mean a licensee of the healing arts as defined in KSA 2014 Supp. 65-2802(d). This definition would add persons licensed to practice chiropractic medicine as health care providers who would be eligible to evaluate and provide to an injured athlete a written clearance to return to play or practice after suffering a concussion or head injury. The current definition in the Act includes only persons licensed by the State Board of Healing Arts (Board) to practice medicine and surgery.

**Background**

In the House Committee on Health and Human Services, three doctors of chiropractic medicine and two private citizens testified as proponents of the bill. Written only testimony in favor of the bill was received from four doctors of chiropractic medicine and representatives of Garden Plain High School and Dodge City Community College. Proponents of the bill discussed the training and education of chiropractors, stating chiropractors were qualified to treat and monitor concussions. Proponents also emphasized small communities often do not have immediate access to doctors other than chiropractors.

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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>

A neurologist and a representative of the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine testified in opposition to the bill discussing the seriousness of brain injuries and the complexity of treating concussions.

A representative of the Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants provided neutral testimony on the bill and offered an amendment to allow physician assistants, when authorized by their supervising physician, to perform examination and management of student athlete head injuries.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget indicates enactment of the bill could increase the number of investigations and complaints handled by the Board, although a fiscal effect could not be determined. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2016 Governor's Budget Report*.