

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2148

As Amended by House Committee on General
Government Budget

Brief*

HB 2148, as amended, would make available streaming audio broadcasts of all public legislative committee meetings that convene in five designated committee rooms beginning January 1, 2016. The designated committee rooms in the Statehouse — 112-N, 144-N, 152-S, 346-S and 548-S — would be equipped for the operation and maintenance of all necessary broadcasting equipment. All public broadcasts would be archived and made available via the Internet. A committee would be able to suspend the broadcasting requirement by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the committee members present at the meeting.

Following the 2017 Legislative Session, the Legislative Chief Information Technology Officer would be required to report to the Legislative Coordinating Council and the Joint Committee on Information Technology on the expenses incurred in order to provide the audio broadcasts, the number of listeners to the broadcasts, the feasibility and projected costs of expanding the number of rooms equipped with the broadcasting devices, and any possible changes to the broadcasting of legislative meetings. The act would sunset following the 2018 Legislative Session.

Background

In the House General Government Budget Committee, proponent testimony was provided by Representatives

*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>

Clayton, Hineman, and Hildabrand; a representative of the Kansas Association of Broadcasters; and Kansas citizens.

There was no opponent or neutral testimony provided during the hearing in the House General Government Budget Committee.

The House Committee amended the bill to specify the committee rooms that would be equipped with broadcasting devices and to clarify that committee meetings do not include caucus meetings, events, or private functions.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the original bill, in consultation with the Legislative Chief Information Technology Officer, equipping four rooms with broadcasting equipment would have one-time costs of \$43,000, all from the State General Fund in fiscal year 2016, and annual operational costs of \$34,000, all from the State General Fund, for a total estimated fiscal impact in FY 2016 of \$77,000. An updated fiscal note on the costs of equipping and maintaining five committee rooms was not provided.