

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2155

As Amended by House Committee on Veterans,
Military and Homeland Security

Brief*

HB 2155 would provide employment reinstatement protections to any person employed in Kansas who is called or ordered to state active duty by Kansas or any other state whether the person is a member of the Kansas Army National Guard, the Kansas Air National Guard, or other military force of Kansas or any other state. To receive these employment protections a person eligible under the bill would have to comply with other requirements in existing law including provision of adequate notice to employer and release from state active duty under honorable conditions.

Current law provides employment protections only to persons called or ordered to duty by the state of Kansas who are members of a Kansas military force.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security at the request of Representative Phillips. He testified the bill provides employment protections for members of the National Guard who are employed outside their affiliated state at the time of state-sponsored activations. Additional testimony in support of the bill was provided by representatives of the Adjutant General's Department, the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office, the Governor's Military Council, and the U.S. Department of Defense-State Liaison Office. A conferee

*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>

noted there are 232 persons who work in Kansas assigned to the National Guard in one of the four states that border Kansas. Under current law those individuals do not have reemployment rights when they complete state active duty.

The House Committee amended the bill to correct references to state active duty, further specify the type of documentation received upon release from state active duty, and clarify the circumstances and manner in which the Adjutant General's Department provides technical assistance to a person denied benefits under the law.

The fiscal note provided by the Division of the Budget indicates passage of the bill could increase the number of claims investigations the Adjutant General's Department would have to conduct. However, there is no way to estimate how many cases, the length of time to investigate each case, or how much it would cost to hire an investigative officer. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2155 is not reflected in *The FY 2016 Governor's Budget Report*.