

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2364

As Recommended by House Committee on
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Brief*

HB 2364 would remove the sunset on the veterinary training program for rural Kansas and allow the program to continue. Under current law, the program would sunset on July 1, 2016, and no further program agreements could be entered after that date.

Background

At the hearing at the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University and representatives from the Beef Cattle Institute, the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association, the Department of Agriculture, the Kansas Livestock Association, and the Kansas Pork Association appeared in support of the bill. The proponents testified the program provided an incentive for new veterinary graduates to practice veterinary medicine in rural areas by providing students with forgivable loans in exchange for practicing veterinary medicine full time in Kansas counties with a population of less than 35,000. The proponents stressed the program's success and emphasized the importance of agriculture and large animal veterinary practice to the state economy. Written testimony in support of the bill was provided by representatives of veterinary hospitals in Johnson County and Washington, Kansas.

There was no neutral or opponent testimony on the bill.

*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>

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget indicated \$400,000 from the State General Fund is appropriated and expended annually for the program. Removing the sunset date would extend expenditures for the program indefinitely. The amount of those expenditures would be subject to appropriations.