

SESSION OF 2016

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2571

As Recommended by House Committee on
Health and Human Services

Brief*

HB 2571 would grant a community mental health center (CMHC) licensed by the Secretary for Aging and Disability Services on or before July 1, 2016, and accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities or The Joint Commission, or an equivalent entity, a license renewal based on such accreditation, referred to as “deemed status.”

Background

At the House Committee on Health and Human Services Committee hearing, representatives from Association of Community Mental Health Centers; Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals; and Prairie View, a community mental health center, testified in favor of the bill. The proponents stated the acceptance of deemed status by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) would allow those providers who obtain national accreditation to go through a licensure audit or inspection only once, instead of undergoing inspections by both the state and the accrediting organization. Additionally, proponents stated deemed status would encourage providers to seek accreditation, which is a higher standard of care than state licensure requirements.

A representative from National Association of Social Workers, Kansas Chapter, testified in opposition to 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>

stating the purpose of accreditation is to meet a prescribed standard for operation and quality improvements, and the state licensure is to protect the public; therefore, accreditation should complement but not replace state licensure.

A representative from KDADS testified as a neutral conferee, stating there is some overlap, but there also are several differences between Kansas regulations and accreditation standards. The representative stated, if deemed status was authorized with enactment of this legislation, KDADS would be required to have separate licensing processes for accredited and non-accredited CMHCs.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget states passage of the bill would have no fiscal effect.