SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2617

<u>As Amended by House Committee on
Commerce, Labor and Economic Development</u>

Brief*

HB 2617, as amended, would revise the administration of the Workers Compensation System. The Director of Workers Compensation would be given the option to contract for the Medical Administrator position established by current law rather than appoint one. The Medical Administrator must be licensed to practice medicine under current law. The bill also would allow workers compensation claims to be filed electronically. If a filing deadline fell on a weekend or legal holiday, the bill would extend the deadline to the next accessible day. Using the electronic filing system would satisfy the signature requirements of documents filed.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development at the request of the Department of Labor. The Medical Administrator oversees the health care services provided to injured employees.

During the House Committee hearing, the Director of Workers Compensation spoke in favor of the bill, which would allow for the adjudication of claims using a paperless, electronic filing system. Representatives of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Kansas Self-insurers Association spoke in favor of the bill, stating it would provide flexibility.

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A representative of the Kansas Medical Society spoke in opposition to the bill, stating an appointed Medical Administrator should continue to be a physician.

The House Committee amended the bill to re-insert language that requires the Medical Administrator to be a physician.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, in consultation with the Department of Labor, the bill would have no fiscal effect.