

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 65

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Federal and State Affairs

Brief*

SB 65 would prohibit public employers from restricting or prohibiting through personnel policies any employee currently licensed to concealed carry from carrying a concealed handgun while engaged in employment duties outside the employer's place of business, including while in a means of conveyance.

The bill would define "public employer" as any state agency, department, board, commission, institution, or bureau, and any city, county, or other municipality that employs one or more individuals.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs.

At the Senate hearing, Senator Knox and a representative of the Kansas State Rifle Association provided testimony in favor of the bill, stating that licensed public employees are able to carry a concealed firearm on the job inside a building, but cannot carry while on the job outside the building. The proponents stated that public employees have the need and the right to protect themselves on the job, both outside and inside buildings.

*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>

Representatives of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, and League of Kansas Municipalities provided testimony against the bill, stating cities and counties, through Home Rule, should have the same right as private employers to adopt their own personnel policies and regulate what employees can and cannot do while on the job.

A representative of the Kansas Association of School Boards provided neutral testimony on the bill, stating the Association believes the bill does not apply to school districts, but the wording of the bill was not clear.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget states the Office of the Attorney General indicates prior amendments to the concealed carry law have generated numerous requests for the Office, which has issued formal interpretations of the net effects of those changes from legislators and local government entities. If the number of these requests continues to grow, the Office may need an additional attorney to handle the increased volume of opinion requests. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2016 Governor's Budget Report*.