

SESSION OF 2021

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2096

As Recommended by House Committee on
Judiciary

Brief*

HB 2096 would amend a Kansas Open Records Act provision requiring public agencies to restrict certain persons' identifying information from public access on a public website that is searchable by a keyword search and identifies the home address or home ownership of such persons, upon request by such persons. Specifically, the bill would add Kansas Department of Corrections employees, local correctional officers, local detention officers, Judicial Branch employees, presiding officers who conduct hearings pursuant to the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act, members of the State Board of Tax Appeals, administrative law judges who conduct hearings pursuant to the Workers' Compensation Act, administrative law judges employed by the Office of Administrative Hearings, members of the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, and municipal court employees to the list of persons whose identifying information may be so restricted.

The bill also would make technical changes to consolidate similar provisions and ensure consistency in statutory references and phrasing.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Judiciary at the request of Representative Patton on behalf of the Kansas Sheriffs Association.

*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>

House Committee on Judiciary

In the House Committee hearing on January 27, 2021, representatives of the Kansas Bar Association, Kansas Department of Corrections, Kansas Sheriffs Association, and the League of Kansas Municipalities, testified as **proponents** of the bill, stating it would increase the safety of persons in the positions added by the bill. Representatives of the Kansas State Board of Indigents' Defense Services and the Office of Judicial Administration provided written-only **proponent** testimony. No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Judicial Branch, Office of Administrative Hearings, Kansas Department of Corrections, and Office of the Attorney General indicate enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on their operations. The League of Kansas Municipalities and Kansas Association of Counties indicate enactment of the bill could require additional staff time to carry out the bill's provisions.

Kansas Open Records Act; exceptions; public employees; home address or ownership