

SESSION OF 2022

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 373

As Amended by Senate Committee on Public
Health and Welfare

Brief*

SB 373, as amended, would appropriate \$500,000 from the State General Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, to the University of Kansas Medical Center for use at the Midwest Stem Cell Therapy Center (Center). The bill would permit the Center to use the funds for the purpose of conducting clinical trials to treat COVID-19 patients using MSCTC-0010 cells developed at the Center. The bill would grant the director of the Center with the direction and control of the expenditures.

The bill would also allow any unencumbered balance in the Center's account in excess of \$100 as of June 30, 2022 to be reappropriated for fiscal year (FY) 2023. The bill would allow the Center to use the reappropriated funds for the same stated purpose as the FY 2022 appropriation.

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare at the request of Senator Thompson.

*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>

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

In the Senate Committee hearing, Senator Thompson and two representatives of the Center's Advisory Board provided **proponent** testimony, stating the appropriated funds would provide the resources to study stem cell treatment for inflammation and "cytokine storms" that can be symptoms of COVID-19 infection. A proponent from the Center's Advisory Board stated that such treatment has shown to be promising for Graft-versus-host disease, and symptoms of severe COVID-19 can be similar.

Written-only neutral testimony was provided by the Director of the Center and Executive Vice Chancellor of the University of Kansas Medical Center, stating concern for expending the funds by June 30, 2022, as written in the bill as introduced.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to authorize the reappropriation of any unencumbered funds in excess of \$100 as of June 30, 2022, for use in FY 2023 by the Center.

Health; Midwest Stem Cell Therapy Center; research; clinical trial; COVID-19; appropriation