

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2579

As Recommended by House Committee on
Health and Human Services

Brief*

HB 2579 would amend law concerning emergency medical services (EMS) to add to the list of interventions that emergency medical responders (EMRs) may provide. The bill would add the distribution of non-prescription, over-the-counter (OTC) medications, as approved by the EMS medical director.

The EMS medical director would not be able to include as approved OTC medications any compound, mixture, or preparation that has a detectable quantity of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine and is exempt from being reported to the statewide electronic logging system for the sale of methamphetamine precursors. The bill would also make technical changes.

Background

The bill was introduced in the House Committee on Health and Human Services at the request of Representative S. Ruiz on behalf of Johnson County MED-ACT; Kansas City, Kansas, Fire Department; Johnson County Emergency Medical Services Physician; and the Mid-America Regional Council Emergency Rescue.

*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 Health and Human Services

In the House Committee hearing on January 31, 2024, an EMS medical director and representatives of the Johnson County Department of Emergency Services, Kansas EMS Association, and Mid-America Regional Council Emergency Rescue provided **proponent** testimony, stating generally that the bill would provide clarification to EMRs regarding the distribution of OTC medication and allow each EMS to determine which OTC medications would be available.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments, Kansas Medical Society, Kansas Public Health Association, and Kansas Region III EMS Council.

A representative of the Emergency Medical Services Board (Board) provided **opponent** testimony, stating the language is unnecessary, implementation would create obstacles to providing care, and the Board could issue a guidance document to address the issue.

Written-only neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the State Board of Pharmacy.

On January 31, 2024, the House Committee adopted an amendment to the bill to remove “when authorized by a physician” regarding an advance practice registered nurse. Upon reconsideration on February 1, 2024, the House Committee removed the amendment and passed the bill as introduced.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Board indicates the bill would not have a fiscal effect on its operations. However, the agency notes that reimbursement and procurement of OTC medications could increase operating costs for local EMS

providers. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

The League of Kansas Municipalities and the Kansas Association of Counties indicate that enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on local government.

Emergency medical services; over-the-counter medications; emergency medical responders