

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2611

As Recommended by House Committee on
Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

Brief*

HB 2611 would make changes to the membership of the Council on Travel and Tourism and a tourism matching grant program.

Council on Travel and Tourism

The bill would expand the Council on Travel and Tourism from 17 members to 20 members by adding three members to be appointed by the Governor representing the National Independent Venue Association, the Kansas Museums Association, and the Kansas Sampler Foundation.

The appointments would be from a list of three individuals submitted by the organizations. The individuals submitted by the National Independent Venue Association would be required to be Kansas residents.

The bill would also make technical changes to the membership by updating the names of standing committees of the Legislature.

Tourism Matching Grant Program

The bill would reduce from 75 percent to 50 percent the minimum required amount of grants made under the Tourism Development and Promotion Matching Grant Program to be

*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>

allocated to public or not-for-profit entities and would remove the requirement that a maximum of 20 percent of granted moneys be granted to an individual entity.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development at the request of a representative of the Department of Commerce.

The House Committee did not hold a hearing on HB 2611 because the contents of the bill are substantially similar to HB 2344, which the House Committee recommended for passage during the 2023 Legislative Session. The contents of HB 2344 were removed by the Senate Committee on Commerce. The background for HB 2344, as introduced, is included below.

House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

In the House Committee hearing on February 14, 2023, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the Department of Commerce and the Travel Industry Association of Kansas. The proponents generally stated the bill would provide valuable additional resources to the Council on Travel and Tourism and update grant allocations in accordance with interest in grants.

The House Committee recommended HB 2611 be placed on the Consent Calendar.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Department of Commerce indicates it would pay an additional \$600 from existing resources for the three additional council members added by the bill.

Legislative Administrative Services and the Kansas Department of Agriculture indicate the bill would not have a fiscal effect. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in the *FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

State government; Council on Travel and Tourism; membership; Tourism Development and Promotion Matching Grant Program