

SESSION OF 2003

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 199

As Amended by House Committee on
Health and Human Services

Brief*

SB 199, as amended, amends a part of the act under which persons who fit and dispense hearing aids are licensed by the Kansas Board of Examiners in Fitting and Dispensing Hearing Aids. The statute being amended sets out those persons who are exempt from licensure by the Board.

The bill creates a new exemption for a licensed audiologist who is employed by a publically funded school district, a special education cooperative, or an education service center serving preschool through high school age students, as long as the employing entity does not sell hearing aids or accessories and the audiologist performing the fitting does not specifically charge the individual being fitted for the service.

Additionally, a provision is added relating to complaints filed against a person exempt from licensure by the Board but who is licensed by another agency. If a person exempt from licensure is a licensee of another state agency and a complaint is filed against that person with the licensing agency concerning conduct covered by the act, the licensing agency must consult with the Board of Examiners in Fitting and Dispensing Hearing Aids regarding the complaint.

The House Committee amendment strikes from the bill the further qualification that persons currently exempt from licensure because they are fitting hearing aids as part of an academic curriculum or a program of a charitable institution or nonprofit organization supported by charitable contributions and that does not sell hearing aids or accessories, also may not specifically charge the person being fitted for the service.

*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/klrd>

Background

SB 199, as amended, was requested by a representative of the Kansas Speech, Language, and Hearing Association who appeared in support of the bill when it was heard by the Senate Committee, as did a representative of the Board. A representative of the Kansas Hearing Aid Association indicated the Association did not oppose the bill as written.

The proponents of the bill suggested the House Committee amendment noting the inclusion of the additional qualification to the existing exemption was unintended and should be struck from the bill.

The fiscal note indicates there would be no fiscal effect associated with passage of the bill.