

SESSION OF 2007

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 106

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Public Health and Welfare

Brief*

SB 106, as amended, would repeal current law that allows graduates of approved nursing schools to practice nursing for up to 120 days prior to receiving the results of their first licensure examination. The bill would be effective on October 1, 2007.

Background

SB 106 was introduced at the request of the State Board of Nursing whose representative stated that elimination of graduate status might encourage graduates to test early and that both Kansas and national data reveal a higher pass rate for graduates who take the licensure examination within 60 days of graduation. Other proponents of the bill included representatives of the Kansas Hospital Association and its allied organization, the Kansas Association of Nurse Leaders; the Kansas Committee for Nursing Education and Practice (a committee of the Kansas Association of Nurse Leaders); the Kansas Association of Colleges of Nursing; the Bethel College Chapter of the Kansas Association of Nursing Students Organization; and the Newman-Kansas Association of Nursing Students Organization at Emporia State University. Written testimony was provided by one opponent of the bill, a nurse educator from Butler Community College, who stated that the time between graduation and taking the licensure examination improves the graduates' confidence and helps solidify their nursing knowledge base. The nurse educator further stated that she could support decreasing the practice exception from 120 days to 60 days.

At the request of a conferee, the Public Health and Welfare Committee amended the effective date of the bill from publication in the statute book to October 1, 2007. The conferee stated the majority of the nursing education programs have their spring graduation date

*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>

in May. The effective date in the introduced version of the bill could create the potential for May graduates to practice initially under current law but have the law change before they were licensed.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the introduced version of the bill states that passage of the bill would have no fiscal effect.