

SESSION OF 2007

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 179

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Public Health and Welfare

Brief*

SB 179, if enacted, would amend one of the statutes in the act under which funeral directors, assistant funeral directors, embalmers, and funeral facilities are regulated and licensed. The amendments would allow assistant funeral directors to be licensed only after an examination, the manner and form of which is to be determined by the Board of Mortuary Arts. In addition, applicants for a license to be an assistant funeral director would have to be a graduate of an accredited high school or have obtained the equivalent of a high school education after the effective date of the bill.

Persons licensed as assistant funeral directors as of December 31, 2007, or persons who are registered apprentice funeral directors are exempt from the mandatory examination and education requirements set out in the bill.

A statute that sets out the maximum fees the Board of Mortuary Arts may set for various examinations, licenses, and facility licenses would be amended to add an assistant funeral director's examination fee to those the Board of Mortuary Arts may fix by rules and regulations. The new fee could not exceed \$200.

Background

SB 179 was introduced at the request of the Kansas Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association, whose representative appeared in support of the bill. A representative of the Board of Mortuary Arts also testified in support of the bill. There were no opponents.

One of the Senate Committee amendments that expands the grandfather clause was recommended by the representative of the Kansas Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association. The other is a clarifying amendment adopted by the Committee.

*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>

The fiscal note on SB 179 indicates the Board of Mortuary Arts estimates that 15 fewer persons would apply for an assistant funeral director's license due to the new requirements to be met by applicants. While this would result in reduced revenue, the reduction would be partially offset by the new assistant funeral director examination fee created by the bill. The agency believes passage of SB 179 would result in a net loss of \$600, of which \$480 would be to the Mortuary Arts Fee Fund and \$120 a loss to the State General Fund. Any additional costs could be absorbed within the agency's existing budget.