

SESSION OF 2007

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 346

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Ways and Means

Brief*

SB 346 would create the Long Term Care Bill of Rights which would set forth the basis for future policy development for older citizens and individuals with disabilities. The principles the bill indicates shall be used for this are:

- The state shall strive to provide a comprehensive, integrated, long term care system throughout the state.
- The policy shall stress individual choice, autonomy, self-determination, and privacy.
- Service delivery shall be integrated and efficient to maximize state resources.
- Eligibility requirements and provider reimbursements shall create incentives to expand services to individuals in the most appropriate setting of their choice and to provide quality service.
- Individuals shall receive necessary care and services in the least costly and least confining setting of choice.
- Funding shall be provided to improve access and information about care options other than nursing facilities.
- Home and community based services shall be expanded and improved in a way that supports and complements services provided by informal care givers.

*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>

- Individuals shall have access to services through a single point of entry, which shall provide descriptive, comparative and cost related information regarding care options.
- The foundation of the system shall strive to provide strong reporting requirements.
- Strong consumer protection and adequate oversight, as well as advocacy and enforcement, shall be available for consumers.
- The state shall strive to expedite eligibility determination and service delivery to all eligible persons.
- The Kansas Department on Aging, the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, the Department of Administration, the Kansas Health Policy Authority, and the Kansas Insurance Department shall meet on a regular basis with the stakeholders to review adequacy and quality of care received.
- The above agencies shall submit a report to the Governor and the chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the House Appropriations Committee annually, regarding the quality, adequacy, and costs of long term care, as well as recommendations for reform.

The bill specifically indicates it would not create an entitlement.

Background

Representatives from the Kansas Department on Aging, the Kansas Insurance Department, AARP Kansas, Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas, the Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living, and the Disability Rights Center of Kansas testified in support of the bill at the hearing.

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means amended the bill to include the Kansas Insurance Department as an agency that shall be involved in the meeting with stakeholders. Additionally, the Senate Committee specified that the annual report to the Legislature shall be directed to the chairpersons of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and the House Appropriations Committee. Other amendments were technical in nature.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget regarding the bill indicates that there would be no fiscal impact.