

SESSION OF 2008

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 529

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Public Health and Welfare

Brief*

SB 529, as amended, would create new law relating to educational awareness of infectious disease vaccines. Boards of education of local school districts that provide information on immunizations, infections, diseases, medications or other school health issues to parents and guardians of students in grades six through 12 also would be required to provide the following information about each infectious disease and the vaccines for that disease:

- A description of the causes, symptoms and means of transmission;
- A list of sources for additional information; and
- Related recommendations issued by the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Committee at the request of a representative of Sanofi-Pasteur. Proponents of the bill included a representative of Sanofi-Pasteur who stated that if the bill were enacted, Kansas would be placed among 14 other states where similar legislation has been successfully implemented and that the bill does not mandate vaccinations or require adolescents be immunized. Andy Marso, a private citizen, presented testimony about the circumstances and long-

*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>

term effects of having contracted meningococcal meningitis as a student at Kansas University, including the loss of his fingers and toes. The Director of the Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, stated that educational awareness will prompt more students to choose to receive vaccination against meningitis, thus lowering the disease incidence in Kansas.

Written testimony supporting the bill was provided by a representative of the Kansas Medical Society who stated that meningococcal disease can result in permanent brain damage, hearing loss, learning disability, amputation and kidney failure and leads to death in approximately 10 to 15 percent of the cases. The Medical Society representative also stated that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends all adolescents between ages 11 and 18 should routinely receive a dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine.

There were no opponents to the bill.

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