

SESSION OF 2008

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 597**

As Amended by Senate Committee on  
Ways and Means

**Brief\***

SB 597 would establish a Kansas Dentistry Bridging Loan program at the Kansas Dental Board. The program would provide incentives for dental students to locate their practices in rural areas upon completing their degrees. Rural areas are designated as counties other than Butler, Douglas, Johnson, Leavenworth, Reno, Riley, Saline, Sedgwick, Shawnee, or Wyandotte.

The program would offer loans to students who have completed the first year of a dental surgery program or a dental medicine program from a school approved by the Kansas Dental Board and who are currently enrolled. The bridging program would provide up to three annual loans of \$8,000 while the student is enrolled in school if the student agrees to practice dentistry in any county other than those designated by the bill for three years after completing a dental residency program or receiving a license to practice in the state. In addition, the community with which the student has a practice commitment agreement will provide a matching amount to the student, for a total \$48,000 loan to the dental student over three years. If the student fails to abide by the terms of the bridging program, the loan must be repaid plus interest at the annual rate of 15.0 percent.

The bill, if passed, would take effect on publication in the statute book.

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\*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>

## **Background**

At the hearing held by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, the bill was supported by the Kansas Dental Association, the University of Kansas, and Oral Health Kansas.

There were no opponents to the bill.

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means amended the bill to change placement of the program from the University of Kansas Medical Center to the Kansas Dental Board. In addition, the Committee amended the bill to include Butler, Leavenworth, Reno, Riley, and Saline Counties in the list of counties excluded from the allowable service areas.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget for the introduced version of SB 597 estimated a total cost of \$169,000, all from the State General Fund, for the program in FY 2009. The estimate assumes a cost of \$96,000 to allow 12 students to participate in the program in FY 2009, \$45,000 for a program administrator, \$20,000 for administrative operating expenditures, and \$8,000 for one-time start-up costs for a computer, furniture, and marketing materials, based on the estimate of the University of Kansas Medical Center. Funding for this program was not included in the Governor's budget recommendation.