

SESSION OF 2008

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 656

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Ways and Means

Brief*

SB 656 would create a comprehensive and coordinated system for long-term care services, including home and community based services in the state of Kansas.

The bill directs that the system:

- Emphasize self-direction, individual choice, home and community settings, and privacy;
- Ensure transparency, accountability, safety, and high quality services;
- Increase expedited eligibility determination;
- Provide timely services;
- Utilize informal services;
- Ensure the moneys follow the person into the community.

The bill directs that all persons receiving long-term care services shall be offered the most appropriate services which are determined to be the most economical, in the aggregate, in terms of State General Fund expenditures. Funding would follow those individuals who transition from nursing facilities to home and community based services into the community.

The bill directs the Department on Aging, the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) and the Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA) to design and implement the system, in consultation with stakeholders and advocates. The Department of Aging and SRS in consultation with KHPA would be required to submit annual reports to the Governor and the Legislature.

*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

The Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services and the Secretary on Aging appeared in support of the amended version of the bill as did representatives of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas and the Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living. In addition, representatives of the Topeka Independent Living Resource Center, InterHab, and AARP Kansas appeared in support of the original bill.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to: remove the provision that all consumers utilize the system through a single point of entry; offer consumers the appropriate service instead of placing consumers in the appropriate setting; note that the cost effectiveness referred to the costs in aggregate; and clarify which agency would submit the report to the Governor and the Legislature.

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