

SESSION OF 2008

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2570**

As Amended by House Committee on  
Health and Human Services

**Brief\***

HB 2570 would expand the pool of people eligible to conduct adoption home assessments by adding the following professions or entities:

- Licensed clinical marriage and family therapist;
- Licensed marriage and family therapist;
- Licensed clinical professional counselor;
- Licensed professional counselor;
- Licensed psychologist;
- Licensed masters level psychologist;
- Licensed clinical psychotherapist; and
- Licensed child-placing agency.

Current law allows only court-appointed licensed social workers to conduct adoption home assessments; the bill enumerates the categories of licensed social workers eligible to conduct assessments. The bill also would require that anyone performing adoption assessments have a minimum of two years experience in adoption services, or be supervised by someone with that experience. The experience requirement is reduced to one year for persons who are licensed by the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board to diagnose and treat mental disorders in independent practice. In addition, the bill would require adoption assessment reports to comply with any applicable rules and regulations of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

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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**

The bill was introduced in the 2007 Session by the House Appropriations Committee. A similar bill, HB 2481, was introduced in the Health and Human Services Committee.

The House Committee received testimony in support of the bill from representatives of American Adoptions, the Mental Health Credentialing Coalition, Kansas Children's Service League, KVC Behavioral Healthcare, St. Francis Community Services, Youthville, the Children's Alliance of Kansas, and KDHE. Representatives of the Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and the Kansas Psychological Association testified in opposition to the bill. A balloon amendment was submitted by the proponents of the bill at the time of the Committee hearing.

The Health and Human Services Committee made amendments to the bill to insert a detailed list of professions and entities eligible to conduct adoption assessments, and to modify the experience requirements. The bill, as amended, also deletes a requirement in the introduced version of the bill to require professional liability insurance for persons performing assessments. The House Committee recommendations incorporate a modified version of the amendments submitted to the Committee.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget for the introduced bill indicates no effect on the state budget.