

SESSION OF 2008

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON  
SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 2752**

As Recommended by House Committee on  
Social Services Budget

**Brief\***

Substitute for House Bill 2752 would establish a geriatric mental health service program, to be known as the Geriatric Mental Health Act, and to be administered by the Department on Aging. The program would provide funding for education, outreach, and services for older adults who are experiencing mental health issues and the providers associated with them. The program would be provided through the area agencies on aging.

Funding for the geriatric mental health service program would be provided to the Area Agencies on Aging and would be utilized in collaboration with other state agencies and mental health agencies and organizations.

The bill indicates that services through the geriatric mental health service program would be provided to individuals regardless of their living arrangement, including those residing in nursing facilities. The Area Agencies on Aging would contract with qualified service providers to deliver services. These services would include education, outreach, and mental health treatment.

The bill allows the Department on Aging to adopt rules and regulations to implement the Act.

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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 Secretary on Aging provided testimony in support of the addressing geriatric mental health issues. Representatives of the Silver Haired Legislature, Kansas Mental Health Coalition, Kansas Association for Homes and Services for the Aging, Central Plains Area Agency on Aging, National Alliance on Mental Health, Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association, AARP Kansas, and the Kansas Mental Health and Aging Coalition appeared in support of the bill.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget indicated that the cost to administer the program would be \$48,391 from the State General Fund for salaries and wages and related supplies. The addition of 1.0 FTE position would be required. Funding for the grants to be provided to the Area Agencies on Aging, which is subject to appropriation, would be in addition to this amount.