

SESSION OF 2008

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON  
SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 2947**

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

**Brief\***

Senate Sub. for HB 2947 deals with the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KORA).

The bill would define “meeting” under the KORA as any gathering or assembly in person or through the use of a telephone or any other medium or any other interactive communication by a majority of the membership of a body or agency subject to the Act for the purpose of discussing the business or affairs of the body or agency.

The bill would require all meetings in a series to be open if they collectively involve a majority of the membership of the body or agency, share a common topic of discussion concerning the business or affairs of the body or agency, and are intended by any or all of the participants to reach agreement on a matter that would require binding action to be taken by the body or agency. Exempted from this provision would be legislative meetings as provided by Article 2, Section 22 of the *Kansas Constitution*.

The penalty imposed under KSA 75-4320 for violation of KORA as defined by this Act would not be imposed prior to July 1, 2009 (penalty not to exceed \$500).

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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**

Proponents of the bill included: Don Moler, League of Kansas Municipalities; Judy Moler, Kansas Association of Counties; and Doug Anstaett, Kansas Press Association.

No opponents testified in opposition to the bill.

The Senate Committee of the Whole clarified when the penalty would be imposed.

The provisions of HB 2947 were deleted and the provisions dealing with KORA were inserted.

No fiscal note was available at the time of passage of the bill.