

SESSION OF 2009

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 173

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Public Health and Welfare

Brief*

SB 173 would amend current law concerning the State Health Care Benefits Program. The bill would allow retired public officers and employees who elected not to continue coverage under the Program upon retirement, but who have experienced a “qualifying event”, to obtain coverage as though they had elected to at the time of retirement.

The bill would define a “qualifying event” as one of the following:

- Death of the spouse of the retired officer or employee; or
- Divorce or legal separation of the retired officer or employee from the spouse of the officer or employee.

Any retired officer or employee, who retired after January 1, 2006 and elected not to continue coverage, would be allowed to obtain coverage under the provisions of the bill. The retired officer or employee would be allowed to use the provisions of this bill only once.

The bill would become effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Proponents of the bill included a private citizen.

*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>

There were no opponents to the bill.

The bill was amended by the Public Health and Welfare Committee to provide a retroactive date for the provisions of the bill and to have the bill become effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget states that retirees participating in the State Employee Health Plan would pay the full cost of health insurance coverage therefore, creating no direct effect on state funds. However, the entire plan could experience higher costs depending on the actual health care expenditures of returning retirees.