

SESSION OF 2010

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2667

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Judiciary

Brief*

HB 2667 would reorganize the Kansas Domestic Relations Code as proposed by the Judicial Council Family Law Advisory Committee (FLAC).

New sections 1 through 41 would be known as the Kansas Domestic Relations Code. Other provisions in the bill would deal with the Kansas Parentage Act, procedures regarding collection of support payment, divorce issues, and abuse of minor children issues.

Background

A representative of the Kansas Judicial Council Family Law Advisory Committee testified in support of the bill in the House Committee. The conferee stated the FLAC was asked to review and make recommendations on 2009 SB 27 concerning presumption of paternity. It became clear to the FLAC that the Kansas Parentage Act, as well as other domestic relations statutes, were in need of updating. Additionally, the FLAC deemed it helpful to have all of the domestic relations statutes reorganized into one chapter of the Kansas Statutes Annotated. The FLAC determined reorganizing the statutes first would better facilitate a comprehensive review. Updating the statutes would occur in the future. Therefore, 2010 HB 2667 includes what will be new statutes resulting from the moving and breaking down of extensive statutes.

*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>

The House Committee made clarifying amendments to the bill.

The House Committee of the Whole amendments inserted the Covenant Marriage Act between a male and female who agree the marriage is a life-long relationship. The procedure for a covenant marriage and a breach of the covenant marriage are outlined in the bill.

Proponents of the bill who provided testimony in the Senate Committee were a representative of the Kansas Judicial Council Family Law Advisory Committee, the Kansas Bar Association, and the Kansas Association of Justice. All of the proponents supported the bill without the provisions concerning the Covenant Marriage Act.

Conferees listed as opponents of the bill who provided testimony in the Senate Committee were representatives of the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, the National Organization for Women of Kansas, and two private attorneys. All of the listed opponents of the bill supported the bill without the provisions concerning the Covenant Marriage Act.

A representative of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment provided neutral testimony on the bill in the Senate Committee. The conferee discussed how the provisions concerning the Covenant Marriage Act might affect the duties of the Office of Vital Statistics.

The Senate Committee deleted the provisions concerning the Covenant Marriage Act.

The fiscal note on the bill, as introduced, indicated no fiscal effect.