

SESSION OF 2017

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2137**

As Recommended by House Committee on  
Local Government

**Brief\***

HB 2137 would allow any county commissioner or member of a city governing body to serve as an emergency medical service volunteer, ambulance service volunteer, or volunteer fire fighter, and receive the usual compensation or remuneration for their volunteer service.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Local Government (Committee) at the request of Representative Rahjes. At the Committee hearing, Representative Rahjes, in addition to representatives of the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services, Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association, and Kansas State Firefighters Association, testified in favor of the bill. Conferees stated communities in Kansas struggle to keep enough volunteers to ensure first responder services are staffed when needed, and in many instances those serving as elected officials also volunteer with emergency service organizations. Representative Rahjes and others also mentioned Attorney General Opinion 2016-12, which stated the common law doctrine of incompatibility of offices precludes an individual from serving as a county commissioner and a volunteer emergency medical technician in the same county.

Written-only neutral testimony was provided by the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM).

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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>

No other testimony was provided.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the LKM states the bill could increase costs for cities that begin compensating volunteers who serve on governing bodies if they currently are not doing so. The fiscal note also states Kansas counties would be affected similarly. Any costs associated with enactment of the bill would be negligible.