

SESSION OF 2022

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 343**

As Amended by Senate Committee on Public  
Health and Welfare

**Brief\***

SB 343, as amended, would replace statutory references to “hearing impairment” and similar terms with “hard of hearing,” “hearing loss,” or “deaf.” The bill would also make technical amendments.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare at the request of Senator O’Shea on behalf of a constituent.

***Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare***

In the Senate Committee hearing, Senator O’Shea and representatives from We the Deaf People and the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provided **proponent** testimony, stating that “hearing impaired” is viewed as a negative term to most people who are deaf. The bill would align statutory language with the terms preferred by persons with hearing loss.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by the Kansas Association of the Deaf, Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns, and Kansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (KSLHA).

No neutral or **opponent** testimony was provided.

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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>

The Senate Committee amended the bill to update language in four additional locations in statute at the request of KSLHA, updating “speech and hearing conditions and diseases” to “speech, language, and hearing disorders” and “speech and hearing impairments” to “speech or language disorders.”

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the bill would have no fiscal effect.

Hearing loss; statutory terminology