

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2760

As Recommended by House Committee on
Veterans and Military

Brief*

HB 2760 would abolish the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office (KCVAO), create the Kansas Office of Veterans Services (KOVVS), and make other changes relating to the transfer of powers, duties, and functions.

***Transfer of Powers, Duties, and Functions to the KOVVS
(New Section 1)***

The bill would abolish the KCVAO and the Office of the Director of the KCVAO. All powers, duties, and functions of the agency and the KCVAO Director would be transferred to the KOVVS and the KOVVS Director. The bill would rename the KCVAO as the KOVVS. The bill would deem references to KCVAO in statutes, contracts, or other documents as applicable to the KOVVS.

Establishment of the KOVVS (New Section 2)

The bill would establish the KOVVS within the Executive Branch of government. Under the bill, only a veteran who is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Kansas Senate would be permitted to serve as the KOVVS Director. Under the bill, the KOVVS Director would serve in the unclassified service at the pleasure of the Governor, and receive an annual salary fixed by the Governor.

*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 KOVS Director would supervise the administration of all budgeting, purchasing, and related management functions of the agency.

Statutory Responsibilities (New Section 3)

The bill would confer the current responsibilities of the KCVAO to the KOVS.

Under current law, the KCVAO is responsible for providing information and advice on available veterans programs and services to veterans, their relatives, and their dependents. The programs and services coordinated by the agency include those in the fields of education, health, mental care, economic security, and vocational guidance. The agency is also responsible for operating the Kansas Soldiers' Home and the Kansas Veterans' Home.

Amendments (Sections 4-60)

The bill would make technical amendments to ensure consistency in statutory phrasing. The bill would also replace references in continuing law to the KCVAO with references to the KOVS. Finally, the bill would repeal statutes regarding the establishment of the KCVAO and its duties.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Veterans and Military at the request of a representative of the KCVAO.

House Committee on Veterans and Military

In the House Committee hearing, Representative Hill and a representative of the KCVAO provided **proponent** testimony. The proponent testimony generally stated that the

bill would change the name of the agency from KCVAO to be KOVS which would better reflect the agency's purpose and increase brand awareness among veterans.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the KCVAO states that enactment of the bill would require \$18,000, all from the State General Fund (SGF) for office and cemetery signage. The agency stated the moneys would consist of SGF dollars for FY 2025 and for FY 2026 from the agency's Kansas Cemeteries Program and Veteran Services Program and that no additional appropriations would be needed.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

Veterans and military; Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office; veterans affairs; veterans services; Kansas Office of Veterans Services