

SESSION OF 2011

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2082

As Recommended by House Committee on
Health and Human Services

Brief*

HB 2082 would revise K.S.A. 12-1509 by allowing limited maintenance on gas piping systems to be performed by hospital maintenance personnel if the gas piping system was installed already. Currently, maintenance can only be performed by individuals licensed as a plumber according to state law and professionally certified as a medical gas installer. This amendment would apply only to existing systems.

Background

The 2010 Kansas Legislature passed House Sub. for SB 449, which forbids any person that is not licensed as a plumber under K.S.A. 12-1508 *et seq.* and certified by professional standards from installing, improving, repairing, maintaining or inspecting medical gas piping systems. The proposed legislation would modify this prohibition by allowing hospital personnel to conduct limited maintenance on previously installed systems.

Representatives of the Kansas Hospital Association and the Russell Regional Hospital provided testimony in favor of the bill. The Hospital Association representative stated that the current wording of K.S.A. 12-1509 had the unintended consequence of forcing some rural hospitals to bring in outside contractors to perform routine maintenance such as repairing an O-ring or replacing a filter on medical gas piping

*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>

systems, as most of these hospitals did not have a person holding the necessary certifications on staff. The need to bring in an outside contractor could cause delays in treatment.

There was no opponent testimony.

The Committee voted to place the bill on the Consent Calendar.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of Budget indicates that the bill could reduce expenditures for cities that operate hospitals. According to the fiscal note, the League of Kansas Municipalities indicated that some hospitals have to bring in outside contractors at significant expense to the hospital to perform routine maintenance.