Brief*

HB 2337, as amended, would provide for the licensing and regulation of abortion clinics by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Any facility that performs any second or third trimester abortion, or five or more first trimester abortions within a month, would have to be licensed. KDHE would be required to adopt and enforce rules and regulations and would collect an initial fee of $500 and subsequent annual fees of $500 from each licensee. The Department also would have to establish classes of violations and corresponding fines for those violations. Inspections would be required twice per year.

Background

Proponents for the bill included Representative Lance Kinzer and representatives of Kansas for Life and the Kansas Catholic Conference. Two other individuals also supported the bill. Opponents included Dr. Herbert Hodes and representatives of Trust Women and Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri.

The House Committee added two additional provisions that would give the Secretary of Health and Environment expanded authority in regulating abortion clinics. First, the procedures for entering an enforcement order based on a stipulation were added. Second, the authority to temporarily suspend or limit a licensee also was added.

*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
A revised fiscal note for HB 2337, as introduced, was submitted by the Director of the Budget. The Director disagreed with KDHE’s assessment of the fiscal effect of HB 2337, and estimated a fiscal effect of $67,165 and 1.00 FTE position. The Director did not assume that 52 hospitals would need to be licensed, and assumed instead that three facilities would need to be licensed. There are currently three clinics in Kansas that perform abortions. Besides the three clinics, abortion procedures are performed in the extreme instance of saving a woman’s life at a small number of ambulatory surgical centers or hospitals. However, it is not likely that any of those facilities would perform five or more abortions per month. For that reason, the number of surveyor FTE positions needed should be reduced from 11.00 to zero. The Public Service Administrator I FTE position could handle survey responsibilities, and other duties required to implement the bill.