

SESSION OF 2012

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2525

As Amended by House Committee on Health
and Human Services

Brief*

HB 2525 would update the Kansas optometry law to reflect the current, state board-required, single licensure level of optometrists in Kansas by eliminating language referring to three different levels of licensure, as well as clarifying the minor surgical procedures that Kansas optometrists are allowed to do.

The bill also would clarify the authority of the Kansas State Board of Examiners in Optometry with regard to license revocation.

The bill also would create the Optometry Litigation Fund. This fund would be used to pay all costs and fees associated with litigation expenses for the Board of Examiners in Optometry. The Fund would be capped at \$400,000.

The bill would require all applicants for licensure to submit fingerprints to the Board. The bill also would create the Criminal History and Fingerprinting Fund. This fund would be used to pay all costs associated with fingerprinting and criminal background checks.

*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>

Background

Representatives from the Kansas Optometric Association and the Kansas Medical Society appeared in support of the bill. There was no neutral or opposing testimony.

The representative from the Kansas Optometric Association testified that this bill will clarify the licensure status of optometrists in Kansas. Under current law there are different levels of licensure. However, all optometrists in Kansas have been required to have the highest level of education and license by the Kansas State Board of Examiners in Optometry since May 2010. This bill would remove confusion associated with the different levels of licensure currently appearing in statute. In addition, testimony stated that the bill would clarify surgical procedures that are within the scope of practice of optometrists to eliminate confusion among the public and third party payers.

The House Committee on Health and Human Services amended the bill to add a fund in the treasury to be used for litigation against the Board. The fund would be capped at \$400,000.

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