

SESSION OF 2017

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2054

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

HB 2054 would amend a provision in the Employment Security Law (Law) regarding information obtained by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to administration of the Law to allow disclosure of such information to public officials or the agents or contractors of a public official in the performance of their official duties. (Under current law, such information may be disclosed only to public employees in the performance of their public duties.) A provision prohibiting further disclosure of information disclosed under the Law would be amended to permit further disclosure for use in the performance of a party's official duties. Those persons subject to penalties for violating the disclosure provisions would be broadened from "the secretary or any officer or employee of the secretary" to "any individual."

The bill would define "performance of official duties" to include the administration or enforcement of law or the execution of the official responsibilities of a federal, state, or local official; collection of debts owed to courts; enforcement of child support on behalf of a state or local official; or research related to the law administered by the public official. The definition would specify it does not include solicitation of contributions or expenditures to or on behalf of a candidate for public or political office or a political party.

*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

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Judiciary. In the House Committee hearing, an attorney who contracts with Kansas judicial districts to perform collections work testified in support of the bill. No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee of the Whole adopted an amendment changing the term “public” to “official” in the phrase “public duties” and defining “performance of official duties.”

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the original bill, the Department of Labor indicates the bill would have no fiscal effect.