

SESSION OF 2020

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2456**

As Recommended by House Committee on  
Corrections and Juvenile Justice

**Brief\***

HB 2456 would amend the definition of “possession” in the Kansas Criminal Code to mean “knowingly having joint or exclusive control over an item, or knowingly keeping some item in any place where the person has some measure of access and right of control.”

Under current law, “possession” is defined as “having joint or exclusive control over an item either with knowledge of such control, with the intent to have such control, or knowingly keeping the item in a place where one would have some measure or access and right of control.”

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice at the request of a representative of the Kansas County and District Attorneys Association.

In the House Committee hearing, a representative of the Kansas County and District Attorneys Association testified in support of the bill, stating that amending the definition of “possession” would help eliminate confusion concerning associated levels of culpability. A representative of the Kansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers provided neutral testimony. No other testimony was provided.

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\*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>

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Office of Judicial Administration, the Kansas Highway Patrol, and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation indicate that enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect.