

SESSION OF 2020

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 484

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Ways and Means

Brief*

SB 484 would allow the Secretary for Children and Families (Secretary) to request a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for time-limited assistance provisions under food assistance provisions for able-bodied adults ages 18 through 49 without dependents in the household if the Secretary can establish there are insufficient jobs in an area using standards not less restrictive than standards in federal regulations in effect on January 1, 2020. Current law prohibits the requesting of such a waiver.

The bill would also make technical amendments.

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means the request of Senator Pettey.

In the Senate Committee hearing, Senator Petersen provided oral proponent testimony, stating the waiver could help the aviation industry in Kansas, parents who do not have primary custody, and youth aging out of foster care. He also noted the last time the waiver was used was 2009, which helped 28,000 people between 2009 and 2013. Written-only

*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>

proponent testimony was submitted by Kansas Action for Children.

No opponent or neutral testimony was submitted.

Federal standards in 7 CFR § 273.24 provide a waiver may be granted if a state satisfies one of the following requirements:

- To support a claim of over 10.0 percent unemployment, a State agency must submit evidence that an area has experienced a recent 12-month average of over 10.0 percent unemployment, a recent 3-month average unemployment rate over 10.0 percent, or a historical seasonal unemployment rate over 10.0 percent; or
- To support a claim of lack of sufficient jobs, a State may submit evidence that an area is designated a Labor Surplus Area (LSA) by the Department of Labor; is determined by the Department of Labor as qualifying for extended unemployment benefits; has a low and declining employment-to-population ratio; has a lack of jobs in declining occupations or industries; is described as an area lacking jobs by an academic study or other publication; and has a 24-month average unemployment rate 20.0 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period, with the 24-month period no earlier than the same 24-month period the Department of Labor uses to designate LSAs for the current fiscal year.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the food assistance benefits paid to individuals who would be eligible under the waiver are 100.0 percent federally funded and passed through the Department for Children and Families (DCF) directly to the beneficiary. DCF indicates any fiscal effect could be absorbed within existing resources. Any fiscal effect associated with the enactment of

the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2021 Governor's Budget Report*.