

SESSION OF 2002

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2718**

As Amended by Senate Committee on  
Public Health and Welfare

**Brief\***

HB 2718 amends various of the statutes that are a part of the Uniform Vital Statistics Act which provides for the filing of vital records relating to birth, death, adoption, marriage, and divorce and the provision of certified copies of such records.

The primary thrust of HB 2718 is to authorize the Department of Health and Environment and the State Registrar, as an alternative to issuing a certified copy of a vital record, to issue a certified abstract of the record. As is a certified copy, the certified abstract is for all purposes to be considered *prima facie* evidence of the facts stated in the record. Technical changes update statutory references to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Senate Committee amendments add two additional sections to the bill, including a section that provides for the creation of a supplementary birth certificate in the new name of an adopted child and for sealing the original birth certificate. Reference to an abstract of the certificate is added to the statute. The other section added to the bill creates criminal penalties for certain actions relating to vital records. The amendments add a reference to an abstract as well as changing the penalties to classified misdemeanors. The other Senate Committee amendments insert references to an abstract where appropriate in additional locations in the statutes being amended.

The bill reconciles two versions of KSA 65-2418 amended in two separate bills enacted in 2001 and strikes a reference to a law that has been repealed.

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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/cgi-bin/fulltext/bills.cgi>

HB 2718 would become effective on publication in the *Kansas Register*.

## **Background**

HB 2718 was introduced at the request of the Department of Health and Environment whose representative explained the development of the state's vital statistics integrated information system, one feature of which is the electronic capture, storage, and rapid retrieval of source information of vital records. The document that can be retrieved, a certified abstract of the original, can be provided in a more timely manner to the individual who requests a certified copy. The abstract provides vital record information in a format commonly recognized by officials and, when certified, can be used in lieu of a certified copy of the document.

The fiscal note indicates there would be no fiscal effect from enactment of HB 2718.