

SESSION OF 2004

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2490

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

HB 2490, as amended by the House Select Committee on Kansas Security, would amend the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) to expand the closure of certain records due to security reasons.

The House Select Committee on Kansas Security amended the bill to expand Section 1, subsection 45, to allow the closure of records pertaining to security measures other than criminal investigation records that protect transportation, private property, or Kansas citizens. The security measures would include, but would not be limited to, intelligence information, tactical plans, responses to actual events, resources deployment, and vulnerability assessments.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to remove the wording "responses to actual events" from section 1, subsection 45 of the bill.

Background

The bill, as introduced, was supported by the City of Overland Park, the Chief of Police for Overland Park, the City of Olathe, Johnson County, Sedgwick County, and the League of Kansas Municipalities. The Kansas Press Association offered an amendment to the bill, which the Committee with the other proponents' support, modified and adopted. The Committee added the wording "response to actual events," and the bill was passed favorably out of Committee.

The bill, as introduced, was opposed by the Kansas Association of Broadcasters.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to remove the

*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>

wording “response to actual events” after discussions with local entities and being assured that records could be closed due to their sensitive nature if an event were already in progress. The bill in its amended form was the same language as offered by the Kansas Press Association and supported by a number of local governmental entities.