

SESSION OF 2005

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2478**

As Amended by House Committee on  
Appropriations

**Brief\***

HB 2478 as amended concerns the Court of Appeals and would delay by one year the expansion of the Court, the effect being that the 13<sup>th</sup> judge would be added January 2007 and the 14<sup>th</sup> judge would be added January 2008.

**Background**

Legislation enacted in 2001 expands the Court of Appeals from 10 to 14 members, with one judge being added each year. (The expansion was delayed by one year in 2003 because of revenue constraints.) Pursuant to current law, the 12<sup>th</sup> judge was added January 2005 and the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> are due to be added January 2006 and January 2007, respectively.

Judge Gary Rulon, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, informed the House Budget Committee considering the Judicial Branch's budget that the Court would like to delay the continued expansion by one year so that the Court could "reassess our needs for additional judges" and fully complete the renovation involved in creating a judicial suite for the recently added 12<sup>th</sup> judge.

The House Appropriations Committee amended the bill at the request of the Judicial Branch in order to conform terms of members of the Court of Appeals to the proposed delay in the Court's expansion.

The fiscal impact of adding a new judge is estimated to be \$298,306. That amount includes the judge's salary, the salaries of 2.0

---

\*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>

FTE associated staff, and the renovation of the Judicial Center to create a judicial suite. Based on the recommendation of the House Budget Committee on the Judicial Branch's budget, which was approved by the House Appropriations Committee, that amount of money was deleted from the Judicial Branch's budget for FY 2006 in anticipation of the 13<sup>th</sup> judge not being added in 2006.