

SESSION OF 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 397

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Elections and Local Government

Brief*

SB 397 would amend a statute dealing with the issuance of birth certificates in cases of foreign adoptions to delete a provision which requires the birth certificate state that it is not evidence of United States citizenship. The bill would prohibit the birth certificate from making any reference to United State citizenship.

Background

Senator Bruce supported the bill. He said having the phrase "This certificate is not evidence of United States citizenship" presents two problems. First, when these children reach the age to go to elementary school, it creates confusion between parents and staff that require a "valid birth certificate" for enrollment purposes. Second, although not intended to be offensive, it does produce stigma on a portion of our population that may already feel different because of the circumstances of their nationality.

The bill was opposed by the State Register and Director of the Center for Health and Environment Statistics, Kansas Department of Health and Environment. He said removing the statement from the Kansas Foreign Born Certificate would give the document the appearance of carrying probate value of citizenship.

The fiscal note states the bill would have a cost impact of \$5,000 for changes in the web page and forms.

*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>