

SESSION OF 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 498

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

As amended, SB 498 would require the governing bodies of counties and cities that require electricians to be licensed to adopt rules and regulations requiring all persons receiving electricians' licenses to obtain continuing education. The bill would require the training consist of not less than 12 hours biennially and be approved by the local governing body. The bill states all 12 hours may consist of code update training on the locally adopted code.

The bill also would establish criteria which applicants must meet before sitting for the standard licensure examination. Those criteria include two years' field experience if applying for a journeyman or residential certificate and possession for two years of a valid journeyman certificate if applying for a master certificate.

Finally, the bill would allow continuing education for electricians, plumbers, mechanical heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) contractors and master and journeyman HVAC mechanics to be provided by a community college, technical school or technical college, in addition to those entities currently contained in the bill (for electricians) or state law (for plumbers and HVAC contractors and mechanics).

Background

Currently, KSA 12-1526 permits any county or city that requires its practicing electricians be licensed to conduct competency examinations. The boards of county commissioners and governing bodies of cities currently are required to adopt rules and regulations (1) governing the conduct and grading of the examinations; (2) prescribing a minimum score of 75 percent for passage; and (3) fixing a uniform examination fee.

Proponents of the bill included Senator Mike Petersen,

*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>

representatives of the electrical contracting industry, and a representative from the City of Wichita, Office of Central Inspection. The Committee received no opposing testimony.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to include residential certificate applicants among those who must have two years' field experience prior to applying.

The House Committee adopted an amendment clarifying that the continuing education requirement would apply to all cities granting electricians' licenses, and not just to those granting annual licenses.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to allow continuing education to be provided by a community college, technical school or technical college for electricians, plumbers and HVAC contractors and mechanics.

The fiscal note on the original bill stated passage of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on the state budget.