

SESSION OF 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 546

As Amended by House Committee on
Appropriations

Brief*

SB 546, if enacted, would create three new statutes that would be made a part of the act under which emergency medical services and emergency medical services personnel are licensed and regulated. The new provisions would direct the Board of Emergency Medical Services, within the limits of appropriations, to develop and maintain a statewide data collection system to collect and analyze emergency medical services information that will assist the Board in improving the quality of emergency medical services. Operators of ambulance services would be required to collect and report information pursuant to rules and regulations adopted by the Board, which, would be required to adopt rules and regulations that use the most efficient and least intrusive means for collecting emergency medical services information.

Any information provided to the Board would be confidential and not disclosed or made public, on subpoena or otherwise, except in those circumstances set out in the bill. Any ambulance service operator who reports emergency medical service information in good faith and in accordance with the requirements set out in the new laws would be immune from civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred from an action resulting from such information. No immunity would apply to unauthorized disclosure of confidential information when such disclosure is due to negligence or willful misconduct.

Background

SB 546 was introduced at the request of the Board of Emergency Medical Services, whose representative appeared in support during the hearing on the bill. Also appearing on the bill were representatives of American Medical Response, the Kansas EMS Association, Region 4 EMS, and Ellis County Emergency Medical Services. These persons

*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>

appeared in support of the concept of data collection, but were opposed to specific provisions in the bill as introduced. Written testimony in support of SB 546 was submitted by representatives of the Department of Transportation and the Department of Health and Environment.

The Senate Committee amendments delete the section of the bill that was opposed by most of the conferees and make it clear that no names of emergency medical service patients are to be revealed without the consent of the patient.

The Senate Committee of the Whole added the section of the bill that would require a recommendation for allowing certain medical information to be made available to first responders through a driver's license check.

The House Committee amended the bill by striking the Senate Committee of the Whole amendment pertaining to medical information being made available to first responders through a drivers' license check.

The fiscal note on SB 546 indicates the *FY 2007 Governor's Budget Report* includes \$200,000 in funding for the project that would be authorized by the bill. It notes the Kansas Association of Counties estimates the bill would have additional administrative costs for counties, but is unable to estimate the fiscal effect.