

SESSION OF 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2284

As Amended During the 2005 Regular
Session of the Legislature

Brief*

HB 2284 would enact new law to allow a mother to breastfeed in places where she has a right to be. The bill also would create a Kansas public policy statement that a mother's choice to breastfeed should be supported and encouraged to the greatest extent possible. Finally, the bill would provide that a mother would be excused from jury service until she is no longer breastfeeding.

Background

HB 2284 was introduced by the House Committee on Health and Human Services at the request of Representative Paul Davis. A proponent of the bill testified before the House Committee about a negative experience while breastfeeding her child in public and the need to allow a woman the right to breastfeed anywhere she has the right to be. Organizations and agencies testifying in support of the bill included the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kaw Area Breastfeeding Coalition, ProKanDo, the Greater Kansas Chapter of the March of Dimes, and La Leche League of Kansas. The bill also was supported by a number of individuals who provided testimony and letters. Several proponents testifying in support of the bill highlighted the benefits of breastfeeding. There were no opponents to the bill.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to provide that breastfeeding be done "discreetly". A second House Committee of the Whole amendment would provide for exclusion from jury service for any breastfeeding mother until she is no longer breastfeeding her child.

*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>

In the Senate Committee hearing, a representative of the Office of Judicial Administration expressed opposition to the House Committee of the Whole amendment relating to jury duty. Several conferees expressed opposition to the House amendment that added discreetly to the bill.

The Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare further amended HB 2284 by deleting the word "discreetly" from the bill.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the introduced version of the bill indicates that passage of the bill would have no fiscal effect.