

SESSION OF 2006

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2604**

As Amended by House Committee on  
Higher Education

**Brief\***

The bill would amend the statute that designates Kansas' representatives to the Midwest Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to provide for reappointment of legislative members under certain circumstances. Specifically, if a legislative member of the Commission is selected by the Commission to serve on its Executive Committee, the legislator could be reappointed to the Commission by the Kansas appointing authority. The reappointment could only be for a period up to an additional two-year term while serving on the Executive Committee.

**Background**

Under current law, Kansas representatives on MHEC include two members of the Legislature of different parties. Legislators appointed to MHEC may serve a maximum of one two-year term. Kansas' other representatives to MHEC include the Governor, or the Governor's designee and two members of the Board of Regents, or designees of the Board. Non-legislator appointees to MHEC may serve maximum four-year terms.

Introduction of the bill was requested by Rep. Tom Sloan who currently represents Kansas on MHEC and serves on its Executive Committee. Rep. Sloan presented testimony in support of the bill at the House Higher Education Committee hearing. In this testimony, Rep. Sloan explained that if a legislative representative to MHEC is selected to serve on the Commission's Executive Committee, it is possible that the legislator's appointment to the Commission would expire before the term on the Executive Committee expires. No opponents of the bill presented testimony at that hearing.

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\*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>

The House Committee amended the bill to permit reappointment of legislative members serving on the MHEC Executive Committee to an amount of time up to an additional two-year term. The bill as introduced would have allowed reappointment to a single, complete two-year term.

The Division of the Budget's fiscal note for the bill does not identify any fiscal impact attributable to the bill. However, the fiscal note points out that the Governor's budget recommendation for FY 2007 does not include the state's annual MHEC dues of \$90,000.