

SESSION OF 2012

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE
BILL NO. 2659**

As Recommended by House Committee on
Health and Human Services

Brief*

Sub. for HB 2659 would move the licensing and regulation of speech pathologists and audiologists from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to the Kansas Department on Aging.

The Department on Aging would have the authority to promulgate rules and regulations to carry out its licensing and regulation responsibilities.

Background

A representative from Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) appeared as a proponent to the bill. KDHE cited Executive Reorganization Order (ERO) No. 41 as the reason this move was necessary. ERO No. 41 would remove all licensing and credentialing authority currently in KDHE. According to KDHE's updated testimony, the agency found that moving speech pathologists and audiologists to the Department on Aging would be a better administrative fit for those programs. There was no neutral testimony. The Speech-language Pathology/Audiology Advisory Board and the Kansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association appeared as opponents to the bill.

As originally drafted, the bill would have moved the regulation and licensing of speech pathologists and

*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>

audiologists from KDHE to the Kansas Board of Healing Arts. Both the Speech-language Pathology/Audiology Advisory Board and the Kansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association opposed moving the licensure and regulation to the Board of Healing Arts, citing a lack of representation in the healing arts community, as well as a potential better fit in the Department on Aging in the event that other disability waivers are moved to that department, consistent with ERO No. 41. The Kansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association also opposed the bill on the grounds that they have not been able to assess the potential impact of the change on their profession.

The House Committee on Health and Human Services adopted a substitute bill, changing all references to Board of Healing Arts to Department on Aging, effectively moving the licensure and regulation responsibilities from the Kansas Board of Healing Arts to the Department on Aging.

According to the fiscal note provided by the Division of the Budget on the original bill, moving licensure would result in an increase in fees to the Board of Healing Arts in the amount of \$13,064 in FY 2013 State General Funds and \$130,644 FY 2013 All Funds. Total costs would be \$5,300 All Funds.