

SESSION OF 2016

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2512

As Amended by House Committee on
Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

Brief*

HB 2512, as amended, would provide the option for an individual to take the certified public accountancy (CPA) examination within 60 days prior to meeting the existing statutory education requirements if the person expects to meet the requirements. Applicants would have 120 days after taking the first section of the examination to file official transcripts with either the Board of Accountancy or the testing service administering the examination. Under current law, applicants must complete their educational requirements and graduate prior to taking the CPA examination.

Background

The bill was introduced at the request of the Kansas Society of CPAs (KSCPA).

During the hearing before the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development, representatives from KSCPA spoke in favor of the bill. KSCPA conducted surveys of students studying accountancy and licensed CPAs, which showed large margins of support for early testing. Proponents stated the bill would provide early access to the CPA examination while students had the necessary academic mindset. Proponents also noted the bill would provide an option to individuals with demanding careers and family obligations.

*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>

A professor of accountancy from Kansas State University spoke in opposition to the bill, stating the preparation for the examination would disrupt students' academic studies. The opponent said early testing would provide minimal benefits.

The House Committee, at the suggestion of KSCPA, amended the bill to increase the period of time from 90 days to 120 days for applicants to verify completion of their coursework, to allow sufficient time for official transcripts to be processed by university and college administrators.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the bill, as introduced, would have no fiscal effect.