

SESSION OF 2016

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 477**

As Recommended by Senate Committee on  
Public Health and Welfare

**Brief\***

SB 477 would establish the Joint Committee on State Psychiatric Hospital Oversight (Committee) and such Committee would be in existence from July 1, 2016, to July 1, 2020. Specific bill details follow.

***Committee Membership***

The Committee would consist of ten members appointed as follows:

- The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare, or the Chairperson's designee;
- The Chairperson of the House Committee on Health and Human Services, or the Chairperson's designee;
- The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, or the Chairperson's designee;
- The Chairperson of the House Committee on Appropriations, or the Chairperson's designee;
- The Ranking Minority member of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means;

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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 Ranking Minority member of the House Committee on Appropriations; and
- The member of the House of Representatives from each Representative district and the member of the Senate from each Senate district in which a state psychiatric hospital is located.

### ***Member Terms***

The bill would require members to be appointed to the Committee for terms coinciding with their legislative terms. Members appointed to fill vacancies or succeed members would be appointed in the same manner as the original appointment of the member succeeded.

### ***Selection of a Chairperson***

The first chairperson of the Committee, whose term would end on December 31, 2016, would be the legislator who represents an area where a state psychiatric hospital is located and has the most years of legislative service. The bill would require subsequent chairpersons be elected by a quorum of the Committee at the first meeting of the calendar year. Six members would constitute a quorum. A chairperson's term would end on December 31 of the calendar year.

### ***Meetings, Compensation, and Services***

The Committee would meet upon the call of the chairperson and could meet at any time and at any place within the state, as designated by the chairperson. Committee members would receive compensation, travel expenses, and subsistence expenses or allowance for attending Committee meetings, as provided in KSA 75-3212, for Committee meetings authorized by the Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC). Additionally, the LCC could provide for professional

services requested by the Committee, as provided in KSA 46-1204. The staff of the Office of Revisor of Statutes, the Legislative Research Department, and the Division of Legislative Administrative Services would provide assistance to the Committee, as requested by the Committee.

### ***Duties of the Committee***

The Committee would be authorized to make recommendations and introduce legislation as necessary in performing the Committee's functions. In addition to the powers and duties prescribed by law or by the LCC, the Committee would be required to:

- Monitor the patient population and review and study the activities and plans of the treatment programs and the correlation to patient outcomes;
- Tour each state psychiatric hospital, considering and evaluating facility issues relating to plant management safety;
- Review and study the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) policies relating to each state psychiatric hospital;
- Review and study KDADS responsiveness and efforts in identifying and resolving issues relating to facility, staff, and patients;
- Review and study KDADS staffing programs and policies relating to staffing, recruitment, retention, employee morale, and employee relations issues;
- Review and identify patient and employee safety concerns;
- Review and study any other issues the Committee identifies or brought to the Committee's attention;

- Make an annual report to the LCC; and
- Make special reports to the House of Representatives and Senate, as deemed appropriate by the Committee.

## **Background**

The bill was introduced in the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Holmes. The bill was then referred to the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare. At the Senate Committee hearing, Senator Holmes and representatives of the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Inc., and the Kansas Organization of State Employees testified in favor of the bill. The proponents generally stated the bill would provide needed oversight and ensure all Kansans receive quality mental health services at the state hospitals. There was no neutral or opponent testimony.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, enactment of the bill would increase State General Fund expenditures by \$22,900 for the Legislature in FY 2017, assuming the rates of compensation, subsistence, and mileage remain constant. The expenditure estimate is based on the assumption the Committee would meet four times during FY 2017, which would cost \$5,725 per meeting for a total of \$22,900. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2017 Governor's Budget Report*.