

SESSION OF 2018

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2465

As Recommended by House Committee on
Veterans and Military

Brief*

HB 2465 would add all employees of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs Office (KCVAO) to the definition of "safety sensitive positions" found in law.

The Director of the Division of Personnel Services, Department of Administration, has the authority to establish and implement drug screening programs for safety sensitive positions, including the ability to screen applicants for illegal drug use upon a conditional offer of employment and to screen employees upon reasonable suspicion of illegal drug use. Currently, only employees of the state's veterans' homes are subject to a drug screening upon reasonable suspicion of illegal drug use.

Current "safety sensitive positions" include:

- All state law enforcement officers authorized to carry firearms;
- All state corrections officers;
- All state parole officers;
- Heads of state agencies who are appointed by the Governor and employees on the Governor's staff;
- All employees with access to secure facilities of a correctional institution;

*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>

- All employees of a juvenile correctional facility;
- All employees within an institution of mental health; and
- All employees with access to a secured biological laboratory in the Office of Laboratory Services, Department of Health and Environment.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Veterans and Military at the request of the KCVAO. In the House Committee hearing, a representative of KCVAO testified in favor of the bill. The representative stated the bill would improve patient care, increase productivity, keep patients out of harm, and reduce employee turnover and absenteeism.

No neutral or opponent testimony was provided.

The House Committee recommended the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the KCVAO estimates the total annual cost to conduct drug screenings would be \$10,000, including \$800 from the State General Fund. The estimate includes \$9,000 for drug screening costs and \$1,000 for administrative costs. Any fiscal effect associated with the enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2019 Governor's Budget Report*.