

SESSION OF 2023

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 308

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Ways and Means

Brief*

SB 308 would enact provisions to be cited as “Kathy’s Bill” and would require the State to give preference to individuals with disabilities in hiring and promotion. The bill would not apply to agencies under the Legislative and Judicial Branches of government.

The bill would also amend the definition of “veteran” in law governing veterans’ preference to include:

- The spouse of a veteran who has a service connected disability of 30.0 percent or greater (current law requires the disability be 100.0 percent service connected);
- The surviving spouse, whether remarried or not remarried (current law does not include remarried spouses); and
- The spouse or surviving spouse of a prisoner of war (current law does not include surviving spouses of prisoners of war).

Background

The bill was introduced in the Senate Committee on Ways and Means at the request of Senator Billinger.

*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>

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

In the Senate Committee hearing on March 21, 2023, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives from the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns, and the Kansas Developmental Disabilities Council and two private citizens. The proponents generally expressed support for the bill, indicating people with disabilities can succeed in the workforce with the appropriate accommodations. Proponents also noted the difficulties of living with a disability but without steady income to support expenses such as medical bills and home cleaners for persons with a physical disability.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Department of Administration, Disability Rights Center of Kansas, KanCare Advocates Network, and Military Officers Association of America.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect.

State employees; disability; veteran