

SENATE BILL No. 566

By Committee on Ways and Means

2-6

9 AN ACT concerning the department of social and rehabilitation services;
10 relating to attendant care workers who provide home and community
11 based services; providing for a study.

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13 WHEREAS, The population of Kansans needing long-term care and
14 support services is expected to increase significantly over the next 40 years
15 and living in the home and community while receiving such care and
16 services is a much preferred choice to an institutional placement; and

17 WHEREAS, Attendant care workers in home and community based
18 services programs provide vital care and support services for the inde-
19 pendence and the well-being of thousands of Kansans in home and com-
20 munity settings; and

21 WHEREAS, Attendant care workers need to be highly qualified and
22 motivated in order to provide the valuable services for all Kansans who
23 receive long-term care and services in home and community settings; and

24 WHEREAS, Attendant care workers do not receive health insurance
25 coverage or retirement benefits, furthermore, many attendant workers
26 are expected to travel between multiple workplace settings and incur
27 substantial daily travel expenses which are not included in the current
28 reimbursement rate system.

29 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

30 Section 1. (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the
31 attendant care workers act.

32 (b) The secretary of social and rehabilitation services shall conduct a
33 study regarding the status and working conditions of the attendant care
34 workers to be completed by October 31, 2008. The study shall be funded
35 from the money follows the person (MFP) or the systems transformation
36 federal Medicaid grants. The study shall include, but not be limited to
37 identifying:

- 38 (1) An appropriate procedure or mechanism for pay rate increases;
39 (2) an appropriate procedure or mechanism for travel and mileage
40 reimbursement or allowance;
41 (3) an appropriate procedure or mechanism for reimbursement for
42 the employer's share of premium paid for attendant care workers partic-
43 ipating in the state employee health care benefits program under K.S.A.

1 75-6506, and amendments thereto; and
2 (4) any other wage and benefit enhancements or expense allowances.
3 (c) The findings and recommendations resulting from such study
4 shall be reported to the joint committee on health care oversight on or
5 before November 1, 2008. The joint committee may request the secretary
6 of social and rehabilitation services to conduct further study or develop
7 requests for funding or legislation to provide for implementation of the
8 program or policy adjustments that may be required or recommended
9 based on the study.
10 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
11 publication in the Kansas register.