

SESSION OF 2002

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE
SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 421**

As Amended by House Committee on
Appropriations

Brief*

House Sub. for SB 421 would allow the Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) to charge and collect fees from parents on a voluntary basis for services provided to their children, based on the parents' income and ability to pay. The fee contributions will be set on a scale similar to those for other SRS programs. SRS will then send a letter to the parents of children receiving services to express the urgent need for the parent's financial contribution, as well as to organizations advocating for services for disabled children to assist in expressing the need for parental contributions. The bill also creates a new fund for the receipt of these voluntary contributions, the Services for Disabled Children's Contribution Fund. Federal dollars for services to disabled children will be matched from this fund. At the beginning of the 2003 Legislative Session, the Secretary of SRS is required to report the results of the voluntary fees to the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, and other appropriate committees.

Background

There were several opponents to the bill, who expressed a concern that charging parents for services when they have not been charged before would deter them from seeking those services for their children. The anticipated result would be hospitalization of these children as their conditions continue to decline, as opposed to the use of less expensive community based services. The agency presented a sliding fee chart with a minimum fee of \$10 for families at 150 percent of the federal

*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/cgi-bin/fulltext/bills.cgi>

poverty level. The Senate Committee amended the bill to start charging the minimum fee for families at 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

The House Committee approved the substitute bill, which changed the fees from mandatory to voluntary, and added the notification requirement.

The Budget Division indicated the fiscal impact of the original bill would be a savings of \$1,728,000 State General Fund and additional revenue of \$1,728,000 all funds.