

SESSION OF 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2668

As Amended by House Committee on
Education

Brief*

HB 2668 provides, effective commencing with the 2001-02 school year and prior to July 1, 2005, that when a school district is enlarged due to disorganization of one district and its attachment to the enlarged district or due to the consolidation of school districts, the successor school district will be entitled to State Financial Aid (school district general fund budget) in the current school year equal to the State Financial Aid of the districts as they were defined in the year preceding the disorganization and attachment or consolidation and for the next four school years. When school district disorganization and attachment or consolidation occurs after July 1, 2005, the successor school district will be entitled to State Financial Aid, as described above, for the current year and for the next three school years. In the case of disorganization and attachment, the provisions of the bill apply only when all of the territory of the district being disorganized is attached to one other district.

Background

Under the current law, State Financial Aid is provided on the basis of the amount received by the school districts in the previous year only when school districts merge through consolidation. HB 2668 was designed to extend the same concept to school districts which are disorganized and attached to another school district under KSA 72-7301, as amended. This was devised, in part, to apply to Moreland and Hill City where, commencing in the 2002-03 school year, Hill City is the surviving school district. HB 2952, a somewhat related measure,

*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>

proposed to extend the period for which aid is provided to a district formed by consolidation from two years (current law) to three years.

HB 2952 was one of seven bills that were introduced by the House Committee on Education at the request of Representative Bill Mason. Subsequently, the seven bills were assigned to a subcommittee composed by Representatives Bill Mason (Chair), Marti Crow, Ralph Ostmeyer, Ethel Peterson, and Dan Williams. During subcommittee deliberations, Senator Stan Clark proposed that the subcommittee consider the subject matter of HB 2668 (as described above) along with HB 2952, as the bills address a similar issue. In particular, Senator Clark described the recent action of the State Board of Education to approve the disorganization of the Moreland school district and its attachment to the Hill City district. At the request of Representative Ostmeyer, the subcommittee agreed to recommend incorporation of the content of HB 2952 into HB 2668. The subcommittee, responding to suggestions of the superintendent of the LaCrosse school district, adjusted provisions of the bill to provide some incentive for school districts considering disorganization and attachment or consolidation to do so prior to July 1, 2005.

The House Committee on Education adopted the subcommittee's recommendation that HB 2668, together with the amendments proposed by the subcommittee, be passed.

In testimony to the House Committee on Education, the Kansas National Education Association indicated the bill as proposed by the subcommittee would encourage school districts to think about the benefits of consolidation and disorganization. Should they decide to move in that direction, the bill would help ensure that they do not suffer during the transition.

The fiscal note of HB 2668, as introduced, reported that the State Department of Education stated that the bill would not require any additional state appropriation. The fiscal note of HB 2952 said that, according to the State Department of Education, the bill would not result in any additional state appropriations since the two districts' finances already have been incorporated in the budget. Freezing those amounts for three years would have negligible effect.