

SESSION OF 2002

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2781**

As Amended by Senate Committee on  
Elections and Local Government

**Brief\***

HB 2781 authorizes the Director of Revenue for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas to maintain a separate library fund for library districts and to make payments on behalf of the libraries from the fund; enacts the Independence Area Library District Act; and authorizes a higher registration fee for attorneys in Johnson County to support the county law library.

The Senate Committee added the contents of SB 550 as it passed the Senate Committee creating the Independence Area Library District Act and the attorney registration fee increase for the Johnson County Law Library.

HB 2781 establishes a procedure for the expansion of the Independence City Library to include all the territory of USD 446 which is located in Montgomery County and would change procedures regarding a library district in Wyandotte County.

The bill provides for the question of the establishment of the library district to be placed before voters by the passage of a resolution by the Independence Public Library Board of Trustees. The library district, if approved, would be governed by a seven-member board of trustees – four members would be appointed by the governing body of the City of Independence, two members by the USD 446 board of education, and one member by the governing body of Elk City.

The library district could levy a tax of not to exceed 1.2 mills. Increases of not to exceed 0.25 mills per year could be authorized by the board of education. Tax increases would be subject to a 5 percent

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\*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.accesskansas.org/legislature/>

protest petition and election procedure. The bill also provides that 10 percent of the qualified electors could petition for an election on the issue of a tax reduction or the dissolution of the library district.

The law library fee increase adds Johnson County to provisions of the law which now allows the Sedgwick County Law Library to charge attorneys a registration fee of not to exceed \$125.00 annually. The current limit for Johnson County is \$75.00.

## **Background**

The bill was supported by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas and the Wyandotte County Library Board. Proponents said Wyandotte County is unique in that there are three ways in which library services are offered, *i.e.*, USD 500 operates the libraries for Kansas City, the City of Bonner Springs operates a city library, and residents who live outside these two entities pay a county library tax.

The bill has no fiscal impact.