

*SESSION OF 2004*

**SECOND  
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 304**

As Agreed to March 31, 2004

**Brief\***

SB 304, as agreed to, concerns the computation of the amount of state financial aid received by school districts that consolidate; establishment of the Center for Innovative School Leadership; duties of school site councils; school district policies concerning the self-administration of medication by students; and counting of virtual school pupil enrollment. The bill also deletes obsolete language.

Major components of the bill as agreed to are the following:

**Consolidation**

Current law provides an incentive to school districts that consolidate by July 1, 2004. SB 304 would provide an incentive to districts that begin the consolidation process but are not able to complete it by the July 1, 2004, deadline.

Under SB 304, if consolidation is completed by July 1, 2005, the consolidated district would receive state financial aid equal to what the combined districts received the year prior to consolidation. For the next two school years, the consolidated district would receive the greater of the amount it received the prior year or the amount it would receive under the school finance formula. (Under current law, school districts that consolidate prior to the July 1, 2004, deadline receive a financial incentive for three succeeding school years.)

Under SB 304, if consolidation is completed after July 1, 2005, the consolidated district would receive state financial aid equal to the total of the amounts received by the consolidating districts in the year prior to consolidation. For the next school year only, the consolidation district would receive the greater of the amount it received in the year

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\*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. The conference committee summary report may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

prior to consolidation or the amount it would receive under the school finance formula.

School districts that complete the consolidation process prior to July 1, 2004, would qualify for the financial incentive in current law and would be unaffected by passage of SB 304.

A similar incentive is provided for school districts which are disorganized and are attached to a single school district.

### **Center for Innovative School Leadership**

The "Center for Innovative School Leadership" would be established as a cooperative endeavor of Emporia State University, Pittsburg State University and Fort Hays State University for the purpose of providing consultation services and assistance to school districts to improve administrative and academic efficiencies. The Center would be authorized to form cooperative or outsourcing arrangements among school districts to improve administrative and academic efficiencies and to form teams with representatives from the fields of education, business, and industry in connection with its activities. School districts using the Center's services would pay a fee based on a set flat fee, a percentage of dollars saved, or a combination of the two.

### **School Site Councils**

The bill would add responsibilities that school site councils may undertake to include making recommendations and proposals to the school board regarding budgetary items and school district matters, including identifying and implementing the best practices for developing efficient and effective administrative and management functions; assisting school boards to analyze the unique environment of schools and to enhance efficiency and maximize limited resources, including outsourcing arrangements and cooperative opportunities as a means to address limited budgets. Under current law, school site councils are required to provide advice and counsel in evaluating state, school district, and school site performance goals and objectives and in determining the methods that should be employed at the school site to meet these goals and objectives.



### **Virtual School Students**

SB 304 would provide that a pupil enrolled in a virtual school in a school district who is not a resident of the state will not be counted in the school district's enrollment.

### **School Board Policies Regarding Self-Medication by Students**

SB 304 would require a school district to adopt a policy authorizing the self-administration of medication for the treatment of asthma or anaphylactic reactions by students in grades 6 through 12. A school district also would be authorized, at its discretion, to adopt such a policy for children in kindergarten and grades 1 through 5. Students would be required to meet all requirements of such school district policies, which may include, but would not be limited to, the following:

- ! A requirement of a written statement from the student's health care provider stating the name and purpose of the medication, the prescribed dosage, the time the medication is to be administered, the length of time for which the medication is prescribed, and any additional special circumstances.
- ! A requirement of written authorization from the student's health care provider and parent or guardian stating that the student has been instructed on self-administration of the medication.
- ! A requirement that the student's parent or guardian provide written authorization for the self-administration of medication.
- ! The requirement that parental authorization for the self-administration of medication be renewed annually.

A school district, and its employees, which authorizes the self-administration of medication in compliance with the provisions of SB 304 would not be liable in any action for any injury resulting from the self-administration of medication. The district would be required to provide written notification to the student's parent or guardian to that effect and the parent or guardian would be required to sign a statement of acknowledgment.

The provisions of SB 304 relating to the self-administration of medication by students would terminate June 30, 2005.

### **Obsolete Language**

The bill deletes obsolete language in the statutes.

### **Conference Committee Action**

The Conference Committee agreed to the House and Senate amendments to the bill with the following exceptions:

- ! A House floor amendment was deleted which would have provided that any savings realized by a school district as the result of services provided by the Center for Innovative School Leadership would be retained by the school district and would not be a deduction from any state aid. (The Conference Committee did not believe the provision was necessary.)
- ! A House floor amendment was deleted concerning the establishment of new membership requirements for school site councils.
- ! A Senate Committee amendment was deleted which would have required SB 304 to take effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

In addition, the Conference Committee amended into the bill the requirement that pupils enrolled in a virtual school in a school district who are not residents of the state will not be counted in the school district's enrollment. This provision was contained in the original version of SB 346.

The provision relating to school district policies concerning the self-administration of medication by students was a House floor amendment which was deleted in the first conference committee agreement on SB 304, but was restored (with some changes from the House-passed version) in the second conference committee agreement.