

SESSION OF 2004

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 556

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Ways and Means

Brief*

SB 556 would defer the third year of the four-year phase out of out-district tuition paid to community colleges and Washburn University from FY 2005 to FY 2006. Under the bill, out-district tuition charges would not be fully eliminated until FY 2007. The bill also would make technical changes.

Background

Currently, when a student who is a resident of a county that does not have a community college or municipal university attends one of those institutions, the home county is required to pay out-district tuition to that institution. The Higher Education Coordination Act (1999 SB 345) eliminated this out-district charge over a four-year period beginning in FY 2001 with the state providing replacement funds to cover the revenue lost by the institution. Due to fiscal restraints, only the first two years of the state funding increases were implemented.

The bill was introduced by the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Representatives of Washburn University and the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees appeared before the committee in favor of the bill. Written testimony from the Kansas Board of Regents also supported the bill. A representative of Sedgwick County expressed neutrality to the bill and noted that Sedgwick County pays the highest amount of out-district tuition but also levies a tax for the support of Wichita State University.

There was no fiscal note from the Division of the Budget available at the time of the hearing.

*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>

