

SESSION OF 2004

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2491

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

HB 2491 would authorize technical college governing boards to levy a property tax within the technical college's territory to be used for adult basic education programs and for debt service payments on bonds for redevelopment projects within the territory. School districts would be prohibited from levying a property tax for adult basic education programs in the technical college's territory if the technical college is levying such a tax.

The bill would also amend statutes governing the transfer of employment from a school district to a technical college as a result of 2003 SB 7. Faculty members and employees would retain collective bargaining protections in addition to the due process protections currently in statute. Also, organizations representing faculty members and employees of technical colleges would continue that representation under the new governance system.

Background

During the 2003 Legislative Session, legislation was passed to move technical colleges from governance by local school boards to independent governing boards. Currently, adult basic education is funded through a property tax levy by the school district. The bill would authorize the new governing board to levy the property tax for adult basic education. The territory of a technical college is to be specified in a governance plan which is subject to approval by the Kansas Board of Regents. HB 2491 was introduced by the Legislative Educational Planning Committee as a part of the legislative package requested by the Kansas Board of Regents.

*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>

At the hearing held by the House Committee on Taxation, representatives of the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges and Wichita USD 259 testified in favor of the bill as introduced. A representative of the Kansas Taxpayer Network testified in opposition to the bill as introduced.

The House Committee amended the bill to prohibit school districts from levying a property tax in the technical college's territory if the technical college is levying such a property tax.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to provide that faculty members and employees of technical colleges would retain collective bargaining protections and organizational representation under the new governing boards resulting from 2003 SB 7.

The fiscal note on the bill as introduced stated that it could have an undetermined impact on local property taxes. There was no revised fiscal note available at the time this supplemental note was written.