

SESSION OF 2005

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 244

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

SB 244, as amended, would create the "2010 Commission" to monitor the implementation and operation of school finance legislation to ensure that the public school system is maintained in a manner that promotes constant and improved levels of measurable student achievement. The Commission would become effective July 1, 2005, and terminate December 31, 2009.

Duties and responsibilities of the Commission would include:

- ! Determining whether there is a fair and equitable relationship between the costs of weighted components and assigned weightings in the law;
- ! Determining whether additional school district operations should be weighted;
- ! Evaluating the reform and restructuring components of the law to assess their impact;
- ! Evaluating the system of financial support, reform, and restructuring of public education in Kansas and in other states to ensure that the Kansas system is the most efficient and effective;
- ! Examining the availability of revenues to ensure adequate funding of elementary and secondary education in the state;
- ! Examining school district efficiencies to determine whether districts are using best practices to deliver high quality services and programs;

*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>

- ! Examining school district consolidation and impediments thereto; and
- ! Monitoring associations and organizations that promote or regulate voluntary or extracurricular activities.

The 2010 Commission would operate like an interim committee and would be authorized to meet 15 days a year when the Legislature is not in session, unless approved by the Legislative Coordinating Council. It would be required to make reports to the Legislature, Governor, and the State Board of Education on or before December 1 of each year. The Commission would not be authorized to introduce legislation, but would be able to include in its reports recommendations for legislative changes.

The Commission would consist of the following 13 members:

- ! Two members appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom would be a superintendent of a large school district and the other a representative of the business community;
- ! Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House, one of whom would be a teacher and the other a representative of the business community;
- ! Two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, one of whom would be a teacher and the other a representative of the business community;
- ! Two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the House, one of whom would be a superintendent of a small school district and the other a representative of the business community;
- ! The Chairperson of the Senate Education Committee or a designee;
- ! The Chairperson of the House Education Committee or a designee;
- ! Two members appointed by the Governor, one of whom would be a member of a local board of education; and

- ! A member of the State Board of Education or a designee of the State Board, selected by the State Board.

Background

SB 244 is one of three bills introduced as a school finance package by the Senate Republican Leadership. (The bills – SB 244, SB 245, and SB 246 – were introduced as companion bills, but are independent of each other.)

The role of the Commission would include obtaining a wide variety of input from individuals and groups interested in the improvement of the state's educational system and how it is funded. The stated purpose of the Commission would be to assist the Legislature in meeting its constitutional duties to provide for intellectual, educational, vocational, and scientific improvement in public schools and to make suitable provision for the finance of the educational interests of the state.

The bill would provide that legislative members of the Commission would receive their regular legislative per diem and travel expenses. Members who are not legislators would receive travel expenses. The Division of the Budget estimates that, if the Commission met for the 15 days it is authorized, the fiscal impact would be \$65,115 from the State General Fund.

The Senate Education Committee made technical and clean-up amendments to the bill. The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to require that one of the members appointed by each of the legislative leadership be a representative of the business community, for a total of four business community representatives. The Senate Committee of the Whole also replaced the Commissioner of Education as a member with a member of the State Board of Education, or the State Board's designee, selected by the State Board.