

SESSION OF 2005

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 262

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Federal and State Affairs

Brief*

SB 262 would create the Efficiency in Local Government Act as a vehicle to allow the consolidation of city and county governments.

The bill would provide for the creation of a reorganization study commission if the governing bodies of the city and the county adopt a joint resolution providing for the commission, and if a majority of county voters agree at an election on that issue. If a city does not adopt the joint resolution, then such city would not be subject to consolidation.

Membership of this commission, including its size and whether the members are to be appointed or elected, would be determined by the city and county governing bodies and set out in the joint resolution.

The reorganization commission would be required to adopt a plan for the reorganization of city and county government. The commission would be required to hold at least two public hearings on a proposed reorganization plan and notice of the hearing must be given in the general circulating newspaper in the county at least once before each meeting.

The bill would require a majority of qualified electors of the county to vote in favor of the plan for the plan to be implemented. No city would be involved in the reorganization plan unless the plan is approved by a majority of qualified voters in such city.

The bill would allow the county to levy a tax not to exceed one mill on all tangible property in the county to pay for consolidation.

*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>

Background

The bill, as introduced in the House Committee on Governmental Organization and Elections, was supported by Representative Mike O'Neal, the Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations, the League of Kansas Municipalities, the Mayor of the City of Topeka, and the City of Emporia.

The proponents on SB 262 who appeared before the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs were: the Mayor and the Director of Planning for the City of Topeka, representatives from the League of Municipalities and Kansas Association of Counties, and two Topeka residents.

Opponents included a representative of the Kansas Farm Bureau, a Topeka resident, and the Vice President of Kansas County Officials.

The fiscal note indicates that consolidation would be handled within the State Treasurer's existing resources and operating process.