

SESSION OF 2006

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
SENATE BILL NO. 344**

As Agreed to March 28, 2006

Brief*

SB 344, as amended, would make it unlawful for a person to willfully fail or refuse to comply with a lawful order or direction of any uniformed school crossing guard. The bill would define "school crossing guard" as any person 18 years of age or older or any person under 18 years of age who is being directly supervised by a person at least 18 years of age, acting with or without compensation and who is authorized by a school district, nonpublic school, city, or county. The bill also would allow that school districts, nonpublic schools, cities, or counties may provide training to volunteers as school crossing guards.

The bill also would require the Secretary of Transportation to work in conjunction with the Board of Education of any school district having a school located adjacent to a rural school zone to determine the appropriate maximum speed limit in and the appropriate signage for any rural school zone. The bill would define a "rural school zone" as that portion of highway located outside of any city which provides entrances and exits to any school located adjacent to such highway.

Conference Committee Action

Conferees agreed to give local units of government enumerated in the bill the discretion to provide training to volunteers as school crossing guards. Senate conferees also agreed to the provisions relating to maximum speed limits for rural school zones.

*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>

Background

Conferees who testified in support of the bill included the bill's sponsor, Senator Journey; Jim Edwards, Government Relations Specialist, Kansas Association of School Boards; and David Church, Chief of Traffic Engineering, Kansas Department of Transportation. Senator Journey noted that similar legislation passed the Senate last year with a large majority, but has languished in the Kansas House of Representatives. Jim Edwards told the Committee that the Kansas Association of School Boards supports the bill as it should enhance the safety of children walking in marked school crossings. Finally, David Church proposed the Senate Committee amendment that would require authorities to provide training to school crossing guards.

The House Committee of the Whole added the provisions relating to rural school districts speed limits.

The fiscal note prepared by the Director of the Budget indicates that additional revenues from fines and related court costs would be expected if anyone were found liable under the bill. No information, however, is available upon which to base an accurate estimate of any additional revenues.