

SESSION OF 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 139

As Further Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

SB 139, as further amended, would authorize establishment and operation of the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science (KAMS), subject to appropriation of funds for that purpose. The Academy would provide an accelerated residential or on-line program for Kansas high school juniors or seniors who are academically talented in science or math. The Board of Regents would determine if the Academy should be residential, on-line, or a combination of the two.

The two-year curriculum would include coursework designed to meet both high school graduation requirements and requirements for associate of arts or associate of science degrees. The Academy would be conducted by faculty of a Kansas postsecondary educational institution (state university, municipal university, community college, technical college, or technical school) designated by the Board of Regents. High school students eligible for the program would:

- Be a Kansas resident eligible for enrollment in the 11th grade;
- Have completed at least two years of high school with distinction in math or science by the end of the 10th grade;
- Have achieved a minimum composite score of 23 on the ACT or 1100 on the SAT; and
- Have demonstrated the maturity and capacity to benefit from the experience.

The Board of Regents would be required to adopt rules and regulations that would include guidelines and procedures for the operation of the Academy. The guidelines and procedures would address:

*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>

- Selection and admission of pupils on the basis of math or science career interests, standardized tests scores, transcripts, teacher evaluations, essays, family commitment, personal interviews, and other such factors as the board identifies;
- Selection of faculty and faculty qualifications;
- Research, laboratory, and field trip activities;
- Extracurricular activities;
- College and career counseling services;
- College credit to be awarded;
- Preparation and utilization of manuals to be provided to high school counselors for use in advising pupils;
- Computers and software needed;
- Encouraging and facilitating parental involvement; and
- Manner and method of publicizing the Academy and acquainting pupils and their parents with the benefits to be gained by attending the Academy.

A total of at least 40 pupils would be admitted to KAMS. Twenty of the pupils would be chosen based on residence with no more than five residing in a single congressional district. The remaining 20 pupils would be chosen without regard to residence in the state. The Board of Regents would have the authority to expand the number of students beyond 40, but the same geographic distribution would apply.

Selection criteria and programs for KAMS could include advance placement high school courses offered over the KAN-ED network. Gifted students would specifically not be allowed to have KAMS participation included as part of the student's individual education plan. Pupils would not have to pay for tuition, fees, or books for use at KAMS, but would be responsible for room and board charges unless they demonstrate financial need, then room and board may be provided without charge.

The bill would authorize the Board of Regents to charge a fee for students attending KAMS. This fee shall not exceed the base state aid per pupil.

In addition, the Board of Regents would be authorized to aid Regents' institutions in developing short-term summer academies that could either be residential or could be conducted over KAN-ED. The Board of Regents would be required to request funds for operation of those academies in its annual budget. The Governor would be required by the bill to include funding for the academies in the budget report to the Legislature. The Board of Regents would be authorized to accept and expend public and private funds for KAMS.

Background

Senator Jordan and a representative of the Kansas Board of Regents presented testimony in support of the bill at the Senate Commerce Committee hearing during the 2005 Session. The Senate Committee amended the bill to make it applicable to students who excel in either math or science, not just those who excel in both math and science. Also, the Senate Committee added language to allow the Regents' institutions to develop short-term summer academies.

Proponents of the bill at the House Higher Education Committee hearing during the 2005 Session included Senator Jordan, a representative of the Board of Regents, a former educator and school administrator, and a community college professor. The Committee held an additional hearing on the bill during the 2006 Session. Senator Jordan, the State Board of Regents, and two individuals supported the bill. No opponents of the bill presented testimony to the House Committee during either hearing.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Make establishment and operation of KAMS subject to appropriation;
- Clarify that the KAMS course of study must be approved by the State Department of Education and must meet both high school graduation requirements and include coursework leading to an associate degree;
- Provide for one-half of the KAMS pupils to be chosen from Kansas congressional rather than Senatorial districts with the

other one-half chosen at large;

- Eliminate the provision for enrollment in KAMS to increase from 40 pupils to 80 pupils in the third and subsequent years of the program;
- Require the Board of Regents to include in its annual budget request funds for operation of short-term summer academies and require the Governor to provide funding for those academies;
- Provide that summer academies would be either residential or could use the KAN-ED system;
- Provide that the selection criteria and programs for KAMS may include advance placement high school courses offered over the KAN-ED network;
- Require that Base State Aid Per Pupil provided for in the K-12 funding formula would be paid to KAMS rather than the school districts in which the KAMS students are enrolled;
- Authorize the Board of Regents to accept and expend funds for KAMS from private and public sources; and
- During the 2006 session to specify that gifted students could not have KAMS included in their individual education plan.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to authorize:

- An on-line program or combination of on-line and residential;
- Expansion of the number of students participating; and
- Establishment of a fee for students attending KAMS and removal of provisions requiring that the base state aid per pupil be paid to KAMS rather than the student's home school district.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget for the introduced version of the bill indicates that for 40 students, KAMS would cost \$200,000 per year for the first two years. The cost would double after the first two years, when 80 students would be admitted.

In addition, the Board of Regents estimates a cost to the host institution of \$50,000 for faculty release time to work with the Board to develop the program. The House Committee's amendment would change the fiscal impact by making the program subject to appropriation.