

SESSION OF 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 382

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Commerce

Brief*

SB 382, as amended, would enact the Developing Responsible Youth Act. The bill would authorize the Secretary of Commerce, in accordance with appropriation acts, to provide grants to eligible entities for the purpose of establishing after-school programs that include the following components:

- Pre-vocational employment skills and options;
- Lifetime physical fitness activities;
- Academic tutoring and academic enhancement; and
- Mentoring.

The Secretary of Commerce would be required to provide technical assistance to grantees, to evaluate programs for effectiveness, and to act as a data repository to coordinate funding and ensure that state funds are not directed toward program duplication. The Secretary would be authorized to enter into agreements to carry out these provisions.

After-school programs would be defined as those programs meeting for a minimum duration of two hours per day during each day school is in session or meeting for a minimum duration of six hours per day each weekday for at least five consecutive weeks outside of the school year. Eligible entities would include units of local government, nonprofit organizations, or faith-based organizations which partner with public and private organizations and businesses who agree to:

- Submit a plan to provide learning opportunities as set forth in the bill to qualified youth;

*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>

- Abide by any guidelines required by the Secretary; and
- Agree to pay at least 20 percent of the program costs. In-kind contributions, in an amount not to exceed 50 percent, may be used as partial payment.

Individuals would be eligible to participate in an after-school program if they are attending school and are enrolled in grades 6, 7, 8 or 9. Individuals enrolled in grade 5 would be eligible if they are included in a middle school or junior high school.

Grants could be awarded for up to 80 percent of the cost of the after-school program. Grantees must agree that all amounts received will be used to establish and carry out the after-school program in compliance with the requirements of the bill. Not more than ten percent of the grant amount received for any fiscal year could be used for the cost of administering the program and acquiring supplies, tools and other equipment. Grants would be awarded for three-year terms and would be renewable.

The Secretary of Commerce could charge a fee to program participants but no individual is to be denied access because of inability to pay the fee. Program participants and program employees could not be discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or political affiliation or belief.

The Secretary of Commerce would be required to provide an annual report to the House Economic Development Committee, the House Commerce and Labor Committee, and the Senate Commerce Committee detailing the manner in which the program funds were spent; an evaluation of pre-vocational skills and options offered and acquired; physical fitness improvement; academic improvement; mentoring participation; and an evaluation of the program as a whole including a recommendation concerning continuation of the program. The Secretary could provide the report by publishing it on the Internet and notifying the members of the three legislative committees of the report's availability and the uniform resource locator (URL) of the report. The Secretary also could submit copies of the report to the committees on CD_ROM or other electronically readable media.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means at the request of Senator Kelly. Proponents of the bill at the

Committee hearing included representatives of the Wellington Police Department, USD 500 (Kansas City, KS), the Kansas Enrichment Network, the Salvation Army, the Manhattan Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA, the Associated General Contractors of Kansas, and the Kansas Department of Commerce. Written testimony was provided by Kansas Action for Children, the Johnson County Parks & Recreation District, the Kansas Association of Counties, and the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. The proponents provided information on the benefits of after-school programs, in particular, programs for middle school students.

There were no opponents to the bill.

The Senate Commerce Committee amended the bill to modify the after-school program components and to include additional program management responsibilities for the Secretary of Commerce. A definition for after-school programs and clarifying language regarding student eligibility were added and the annual report requirements were modified.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the introduced version of the bill states that the Department of Commerce could carry out, within current resources, the required functions of drafting guidelines, selecting grant recipients, and managing the grants. Funding of \$1,250,000 was included in *The FY 2007 Governor's Budget Report* for after-school programs. Of this total, \$500,000 is from the Children's Initiatives Fund and \$750,000 is from the State General Fund.