

SESSION OF 2009

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
SENATE BILL NO. 41**

As Agreed to March 31, 2009

Brief*

SB 41 would amend state law dealing with school district consolidation and disorganization. In situations where a school district disorganizes and the territory of the disorganized district is attached to more than one district, the state financial aid of the disorganized district is allocated to the districts to which the territory of the former district is attached. The state financial aid would be allocated on the same proportional basis that the assessed valuation of the territory attached to each district bears to the assessed valuation of the entire disorganized district.

The bill would require the State Board of Education to designate a period of time each school year as a time for disability history and awareness. The State Board would develop objectives and guidelines for disability history and awareness, for all grade levels, within existing curriculum. The bill lists a variety of goals of disability history and awareness instruction, including encouraging better treatment of individuals with disabilities. The bill would require each school district to include disability history and awareness with the district's curriculum, as deemed appropriate by the district. The bill also encourages postsecondary educational institutions to conduct and promote activities that provide education, understanding and awareness of individuals with disabilities, disability history, and the disability rights movement.

*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. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/klrd>

The bill would require the State Board of Education to develop state curriculum standards for personal financial literacy for all grade levels within the existing mathematics or other appropriate subject matter curriculum. The bill also would require the State Board to encourage school districts, when selecting textbooks for mathematics, economics, family and consumer science, accounting, or other appropriate courses, to select textbooks containing substantive provisions on personal finance. In addition, the bill would require the State Board of Education to include questions relating to personal financial literacy in the statewide assessments for mathematics or social studies when the statewide assessments for mathematics or social studies are reviewed or rewritten. The State Board would be required to examine the questions relating to personal financial literacy and rewrite such questions in order to determine if programs on personal financial literacy are equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed to become self-supporting and to enable students to make critical decisions regarding personal finances.

The bill also would repeal KSA 72-67,106; 72-8149; 72-8155; 72-8155a; 72-8155b; and 72-8155c which authorized several school district transfers and fund transfers between 1965 and 1980.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee combined SB 41, as amended by the House Committee on Education, with SB 84 as amended by the House Committee on Education, with the addition of a requirement for the State Board of Education to include questions relating to personal financial literacy in the statewide assessments for mathematics and social studies, when the statewide assessments for mathematics and social studies are reviewed or rewritten. The Conference Committee also added SB 162, relating to disability history and awareness, as amended by the House Committee on Education, to SB 41.

Background

Senator Vratil spoke in support of SB 41, as introduced. There were no opponents of the bill as introduced. The House Committee on Education amended SB 41 by adding the provision dealing with situations where a school district disorganizes and the territory of the disorganized district is attached to more than one district, the state financial aid of the disorganized district is allocated to the districts to which the territory of the former district is attached. The state financial aid would be allocated on the same proportional basis that the assessed valuation of the territory attached to each district bears to the assessed valuation of the entire disorganized district.

Testifying as proponents of SB 162 were representatives of the Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy and the SKIL Resource Center. A representative of the Kansas National Education Association and the Kansas Association of School Boards opposed the bill.

The House Committee on Education amended the bill by deleting the requirement that the State Board of Education designate the last two weeks in January of each year as Disability History and Awareness Weeks. The Committee also deleted provisions that would require the State Board to develop a curriculum and materials for use by school districts in implementing a program of instruction on disability history and disability awareness.

Testifying as proponents of SB 84, as introduced, were Representative Melody McCray-Miller, Carol Rupe, and representatives of the State Treasurer's Office, Kansas Action for Children, the Kansas Association of Insurance Agents, and the Kansas Credit Union Association.

Opposing the bill were representatives of the Kansas Community Financial Services Association and the Kansas National Education Association. Providing neutral testimony

were Barbara Railsback and a representative of the Wichita School District.

The Senate Committee on Education made amendments to SB 84 requiring the State Board of Education to develop state curriculum standards for personal financial literacy as well as expanding the courses for which school districts were encouraged to buy textbooks containing substantive provisions on personal finance. The Committee also amended the bill so that the bill would not take effect until July 1, 2012. The House Committee on Education made amendments deleting a requirement that the State Board include questions relating to personal financial literacy in the statewide assessments for mathematics or social studies and changing the bill's effective date to July 1, 2010.

According to the Division of Budget fiscal note, there would be no fiscal impact on SB 41, as introduced.

The Division of the Budget fiscal note on SB 162, as introduced, indicated that \$3,000 would be needed to implement the bill. The fiscal note indicated this amount would cover the cost of advisory committee meetings necessary in the development of curriculum, guidelines, standards, and objectives for a program of instruction on disability history and awareness. However, these requirements were deleted in the House version of SB 162 which was agreed upon by the Conference Committee.

The Division of the Budget fiscal note on SB 84, as introduced, indicated a cost of \$2,000 to organize two meetings with an advisory group to review and assist in the development of standards and objectives for curriculum development.

school district consolidation; school district disorganization