

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2717

As Recommended by House Committee on
Education

Brief*

HB 2717 would decrease the minimum age for compulsory school attendance in K-12 education from seven years of age to six years of age attained on or before August 31.

The bill would also allow that, if a parent or person acting as a parent is a member of a recognized church or religious denomination that objects to the compulsory attendance age for any child who has reached the age of six years, such parent or person acting as a parent may, by written consent, exempt the child from the compulsory attendance requirement if the child has not yet reached the age of seven years. Any child exempted pursuant to the bill would be subject to the compulsory attendance requirements when the child has reached the age of seven years.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on K-12 Education Budget at the request of Representative Estes. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Education.

House Committee on Education

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Estes, stating the learning

*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 <https://klrd.gov/>

that takes place in the early years is too essential to wait until age seven.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the State Department of Education indicates the enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect. The Kansas Association of School Boards reports that most school districts currently offer all-day kindergarten, with the exception of a few in eastern Kansas that have half-day kindergarten because of space limitations. The Association reports the enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect for most school districts, unless the change would require the construction or moving of temporary classrooms and staff to accommodate the increased number of kindergartners; however, a fiscal effect was not estimated. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

Education; K-12; compulsory education; age of attendance