

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 290

As Amended by Senate Committee on Ways
and Means

Brief*

SB 290, as amended, would appropriate \$600,000 from the State General Fund (SGF) to the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS) for the development of the Quindaro Ruins Archeological Park (Park) in Wyandotte County, Kansas, for FY 2026.

The bill would require at least \$250,000 SGF to be used by the KSHS to issue a project scope statement, plan the work to be accomplished, and issue a request for proposal (RFP) for a master plan for the park. The remaining amount would be used to implement phase one of the renovation plans for the Park.

The bill would state that it is the intent of the Legislature to provide additional funding for future fiscal years to complete the project, based on the final plan.

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means at the request of Senator Billinger. [*Note: A companion bill, HB 2398, has been introduced in the House.*]

*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/>

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

In the Senate Committee hearing on March 17, 2025, Senator Haley provided **proponent** testimony, stating that there is unique, intercultural history in Quindaro for Kansas and for the nation. The conferee also discussed obstructions in the past that have slowed the project down, whether plans are in the process of being created for the Park, the RFP process, stakeholders, and the decision-making process.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas and a representative from Health Forward Foundation. This testimony generally addressed the benefits of having historic sites preserved for the community and for future generations.

A representative of the Western University Association of the African Methodist Episcopal Church provided neutral testimony. The representative discussed the size of the property, stated that the landowners should have say in the planning and decision-making process, and reviewed some of the things that have been done already in the Park area. The representative also discussed what can be done by the time of the FIFA World Cup, including adding signage and trails, and the willingness to work with all stakeholders to continue the work to preserve the Park.

Written-only neutral testimony was provided by a member of the public. This testimony generally noted that funding and/or representation on a task force would need to be allocated based on land ownership for the site and discussed a public-private partnership as a model for the Quindaro site.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to change its effective date from upon publication in the statute book to upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Fiscal Information

The bill would appropriate \$600,000 SGF to the KSHS for FY 2026.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the KSHS indicates that the agency would use a portion of the funding to hire an additional 0.5 FTE position to manage the development and implementation of the master plan. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

Quindaro Ruins; Kansas State Historical Society; archaeological park