

SENATE BILL No. 176

By Committee on Ways and Means

2-12

1 AN ACT creating the coalition of innovative districts act.

2

3 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

4 Section 1. The provisions of sections 1 through—9 **10**, and
5 amendments thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the coalition of
6 innovative districts act.

7 Sec. 2. As used in sections 1 through—9 **10**, and amendments thereto:

8 (a) "Board of education" means the locally elected board of education
9 of a school district.

10 (b) "Public innovative district" means a school district that has been
11 approved to operate as a public innovative district pursuant to section 3,
12 and amendments thereto.

13 (c) "Coalition" means the coalition of innovative districts established
14 pursuant to section 4, and amendments thereto.

15 (d) "Completion percentage" means the percentage of high school
16 graduates of a public innovative district that have enlisted in military
17 service or completed a postsecondary educational certificate program or
18 degree program as determined by the national student clearinghouse, or
19 other postsecondary educational program completion database utilized by
20 such public innovative district.

21 (e) "School district" means a unified school district organized and
22 operated under the laws of this state.

23 (f) "School year" means the 12-month period ending June 30.

24 (g) "State board" means the state board of education.

25 Sec. 3. (a) Except as provided in section 5, and amendments thereto,
26 the board of education of any school district may apply to the state board
27 of education for a grant of authority to operate such school district as a
28 public innovative district. The application shall be submitted in the form
29 and manner prescribed by the state board, and shall be submitted not later
30 than December 1 of the school year preceding the school year in which the
31 school district intends to operate as a public innovative district.

32 (b) The application shall include the following:

33 (1) A description of the educational programs of the public innovative
34 district;

1 (2) a description of the interest and support for partnerships between
2 the public innovative district, parents and the community;

3 (3) the specific goals and the measurable pupil outcomes to be
4 obtained by operating as a public innovative district; and

5 (4) an explanation of how pupil performance in achieving the
6 specified outcomes will be measured, evaluated and reported.

7 (c) (1) Within 90 days from the date such application is submitted, the
8 state board shall review the application to determine compliance with this
9 section, and shall approve or deny such application *on or before the*
10 *conclusion of such 90-day period*. If the application is determined to be in
11 compliance with this section, the state board shall approve such
12 application and grant the school district authority to operate as a public
13 innovative district. Notification of such approval shall be sent to the board
14 of education of such school district within 10 days after such decision.

15 (2) If the state board determines such application is not in compliance
16 with either this section, or section 5, and amendments thereto, the state
17 board shall deny such application. Notification of such denial shall be sent
18 to the board of education of such school district within 10 days after such
19 decision and shall specify the reasons therefor. Within 30 days from the
20 date such notification is sent, the board of education of such school district
21 may submit a request to the state board for reconsideration of the
22 application and may submit an amended application with such request.
23 The state board shall act on the request for reconsideration within 60 days
24 of receipt of such request.

25 (d) A public innovative district shall:

26 (1) Not charge tuition for any of the pupils residing within the public
27 innovative district;

28 (2) participate in all Kansas math and reading assessments applicable
29 to such public innovative district, or an alternative assessment program for
30 measuring student progress as determined by the board of education;

31 (3) abide by all financial and auditing requirements that are
32 applicable to school districts, except that a public innovative district may
33 use generally accepted accounting principles;

34 (4) comply with all applicable health, safety and access laws; and

35 (5) comply with all statements set forth in the application submitted
36 pursuant to subsection (a).

37 (e) (1) Except as otherwise provided in sections 1 through ~~9~~ **10**, and
38 amendments thereto, or as required by the board of education of the public
39 innovative district, a public innovative district shall be exempt from all
40 laws and rules and regulations that are applicable to school districts.

41 (2) A public innovative district shall be subject to the special
42 education for exceptional children act, the virtual school act, the school
43 district finance and quality performance act, the provisions of K.S.A. 72-

1 8801 et seq., and amendments thereto, the provisions of ~~K.S.A. 75-2315 et~~
2 ~~seq., and amendments thereto~~ **all laws governing the issuance of general**
3 **obligation bonds by school districts**, the provisions of K.S.A. 74-4901 et
4 seq., and amendments thereto, and all laws governing the election of
5 members of the board of education.

6 Sec. 4. (a) There is hereby established the coalition of innovative
7 districts, which shall consist of each school district granted authority to
8 operate as a public innovative district pursuant to section 3, and
9 amendments thereto.

10 (b) The duties and functions of the coalition set forth in the
11 provisions of sections 1 through ~~9~~ **10**, and amendments thereto, shall be
12 carried out by the coalition board, which shall consist of one representative
13 of each public innovative district who shall be designated by the board of
14 education of such public innovative district.

15 (c) The chairperson of the coalition board shall be appointed by the
16 governor, the chairperson of the senate committee on education and the
17 chairperson of the house of representatives committee on education whose
18 decision shall be unanimous. The chairperson shall serve for a term of five
19 years. In the event of a vacancy in the position of chairperson, a successor
20 shall be appointed pursuant to this subsection.

21 (d) The coalition board may meet at such times and places as
22 determined by the coalition board. Any action by the coalition board shall
23 be taken only upon approval by a majority of the members.

24 ***{(e) The coalition board shall report annually to the president of the***
25 ***senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the chairpersons***
26 ***of the senate and house education committees regarding pupil***
27 ***performance in the public innovative districts, the laws and rules and***
28 ***regulations deemed to be problematic by the coalition board, and any***
29 ***other information regarding success or problems experienced by the***
30 ***public innovative districts during the previous school year.***}

31 Sec. 5. (a) Until such time as two or more ~~public innovative school~~
32 districts have been granted authority to operate as public innovative
33 districts pursuant to section 3, and amendments thereto, any board of
34 education **of a school district** desiring to operate as a public innovative
35 district shall submit a request for approval to operate as a public
36 innovative district to the governor, the chairperson of the senate committee
37 on education and the chairperson of the house of representatives
38 committee on education and have such request approved by a majority of
39 the three persons prior to submitting an application to the state board under
40 section 3, and amendments thereto. The request for approval shall include
41 such information as is required to be included on an application for
42 authority to operate as a public innovative district under section 3, and
43 amendments thereto.

1 (b) Upon the approval of the first two public innovative districts, the
2 board of education of a school district desiring to operate as a public
3 innovative district shall submit a request for approval to operate as a
4 public innovative district to the coalition board and have such request
5 approved by the coalition board prior to submitting any application to the
6 state board under section 3, and amendments thereto. ***The coalition board,***
7 ***in its sole discretion, shall approve or deny the request. As part of its***
8 ***review of such request, the coalition board may make recommendations***
9 ***to the requesting school district to modify the request, and may consider***
10 ***any such modifications prior to making a final decision.***

11 (c) The request for approval required by subsection (b) shall include
12 such information as is required to be included on an application for
13 authority to operate as a public innovative district under section 3, and
14 amendments thereto. Copies of the request for approval shall be submitted
15 to each public innovative district that is a member of the coalition. Within
16 30 days after receipt of the request for approval by the last member to
17 receive such request, the coalition board shall meet to approve or deny the
18 request. Notification of the approval or denial of a request shall be sent to
19 the board of education of the requesting school district within 10 days after
20 such decision. If the request is denied, the notification shall specify the
21 reasons therefor. Within 30 days from the date a notification of denial is
22 sent, the board of education of the requesting school district may submit a
23 request to the coalition board for reconsideration of the request for
24 approval and may submit an amended request for approval with the
25 request for reconsideration. The coalition board shall act on the request for
26 reconsideration within 30 days of receipt of such request.

27 (d) At no time shall ~~there be more than 10~~ ***{10% of the school***
28 ***districts in the state operate as}*** public innovative districts ~~operating in~~
29 ~~this state~~. Any request for approval submitted at such time shall be denied
30 by the coalition board.

31 ***{(e) The coalition board may organize itself into subcommittees.}***

32 Sec. 6. (a) The authority to operate as a public innovative district
33 shall be effective for a period of five school years. At least 90 days prior to
34 the expiration of such five-year period, the board of education of a public
35 innovative district may submit an application for renewal of its authority to
36 operate as a public innovative district. Such renewal application shall be
37 submitted in such form and manner as prescribed by the state board.

38 (b) A renewal application submitted pursuant to this section shall
39 include:

40 (1) Evidence that such public innovative district has met the standards
41 on the math and reading state assessments, or the alternative assessment
42 adopted by the board of education, during the period of operation as a
43 public innovative district;

1 (2) evidence that such public innovative district has shown
2 improvement in its completion percentage during the period of operation
3 as a public innovative district;

4 (3) demonstrated progress that such public innovative district is
5 achieving the goals and outcomes described in its application for authority
6 to operate as a public innovative district; and

7 (4) a description of compliance with the provisions of sections 1
8 through-9 **10**, and amendments thereto.

9 (c) (1) Within 60 days after such renewal application is submitted, the
10 state board shall review the renewal application to determine compliance
11 with this section. If the renewal application is in compliance with the
12 provisions of this section, the state board shall grant the renewal of the
13 authority to operate as a public innovative district for a subsequent five-
14 year period and notify the board of education of such public innovative
15 district within 10 days after such decision.

16 (2) If the state board determines the renewal application is not in
17 compliance with this section, the state board shall hold a hearing on the
18 issues in controversy. Representatives of the public innovative district
19 shall be provided the opportunity to present information refuting the basis
20 upon which the noncompliance is premised. At least 30 days' notice shall
21 be provided to the board of education of the public innovative district prior
22 to the hearing. Within 60 days after the hearing, the state board shall
23 determine whether to not renew the grant of authority, renew the grant of
24 authority contingent upon compliance with specified conditions or renew
25 the grant of authority without conditions. Notification of such decision
26 shall be sent to the board of education of the public innovative district and
27 shall specify the reasons therefor.

28 (3) If a grant of authority is not renewed, the board of education of
29 such school district may apply for a grant of authority to operate as a
30 public innovative district in accordance with the provisions of sections 1
31 through-9 **10**, and amendments thereto.

32 **Sec. 7. (a) If at any time a public innovative district fails to meet**
33 **any of the renewal criteria set forth in subsection (b) of section 6, and**
34 **amendments thereto, for two or more consecutive school years, then:**

35 (1) **Such public innovative district may submit a petition to the state**
36 **board for a release of the grant of authority to operate as a public**
37 **innovative district; or**

38 (2) **the coalition board may submit a petition to the state board**
39 **requesting that such public innovative district have its grant of authority**
40 **to operate as a public innovative district revoked.**

41 (b) **If a petition is submitted to the state board pursuant to**
42 **subsection (a)(1), then the state board shall grant such petition and**
43 **release such public innovative district from the grant of authority to**

1 *operate as a public innovative district. Such release shall be effective for*
2 *the school year immediately succeeding the grant of the petition.*

3 *(c) If a petition is submitted to the state board pursuant to*
4 *subsection (a)(2), then the state board shall hold a hearing on the issues*
5 *in controversy. Representatives of the public innovative district shall be*
6 *provided the opportunity to present information refuting the basis upon*
7 *which the petition is premised. At least 30 days' notice shall be provided*
8 *to the board of education of the public innovative district prior to the*
9 *hearing. Within 60 days after the hearing, the state board shall*
10 *determine whether to grant or deny the petition. Notification of such*
11 *decision shall be sent to the board of education of the public innovative*
12 *district and shall specify the reasons therefor. If the petition is granted,*
13 *the authority to operate as a public innovative district shall be revoked*
14 *commencing with the school year immediately succeeding the grant of*
15 *the petition.*

16 ~~Sec.—7.~~ **8.** The members of the coalition, represented by the
17 superintendent of each public innovative district, shall meet at least once a
18 month to discuss the educational programs of the public innovative
19 districts and the success or failure thereof. Such meetings shall be
20 conducted in the spirit of cooperation and the sharing of educational
21 program concepts that are either being implemented or being considered
22 for implementation.

23 ~~Sec.—8.~~ **9.** The state board shall provide, upon request, any board of
24 education with technical advice and assistance regarding the preparation of
25 an application for a grant of authority to operate a public innovative
26 district.

27 ~~Sec.—9.~~ **10.** The state board shall adopt such rules and regulations as
28 necessary for the implementation and administration of the provisions of
29 sections 1 through ~~9~~ **10**, and amendments thereto.

30 ~~Sec.—10.~~ **11.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
31 publication in the statute book.