

SESSION OF 2013

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2280

As Amended by House Committee on Education

Brief*

HB 2280, as amended, would designate the week containing September 17 as “Celebrate Freedom Week,” during which public schools would be required to teach the history of the country’s founding, with particular emphasis on the *Declaration of Independence* and the *U.S. Constitution*. The bill would require religious references in the writings of the founding fathers could not be censored when presented as part of the instruction.

On or before December 31, 2013, the State Board of Education would be responsible for adopting rules and regulations to require history and government curriculum that includes instruction on the meaning and context of the *Declaration of Independence* and the *U.S. Constitution*, major wars, and social movements in American history. The State Board of Education, along with other volunteers, would promote “Celebrate Freedom Week”.

Background

The bill was introduced by Representative Meigs and cosponsored by multiple representatives. Representative Meigs provided testimony in support of the bill. A board member from the Mainstream Coalition appeared as an opponent of the bill at the House Committee hearing.

The House Committee on Education amended the bill to require the State Board of Education adopt rules and regulations on or before December 31, 2013. The original bill had required the adoption of rules and regulations on or

*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>

before December 31, 2014. A technical amendment also was made.

The fiscal note from the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, indicated the bill would have no fiscal effect.