

SESSION OF 2014

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2544

As Recommended by House Committee on
Appropriations

Brief*

HB 2544 would authorize certain postsecondary educational institutions to enter into the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement to provide distance education to out-of-state students. If a postsecondary institution is a private or out-of-state institution and does not have a physical presence in Kansas, its participation in the agreement will exempt the institution from the Kansas Private and Out-of-State Postsecondary Educational Act.

Background

A representative of the Board of Regents testified as a proponent of the bill at the House Committee on Appropriations hearing and stated the bill would allow Kansas to participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) administered by the Midwest Higher Education Compact, of which Kansas is a member. According to the representative, participation in SARA would not compromise the Kansas Board of Regents' ability to continue regulating institutions that choose not to participate in, or whose home states are not part of, the SARA consortium. The Board representative stated that participation in SARA would be helpful in efficiencies and cost savings. Kansas public universities estimate annual cost savings of up to \$529,000.

The Dean of Continuing Education from Kansas State University also testified as a proponent of the bill. There was no opponent testimony at the hearing.

*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>

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget indicates the bill would have no fiscal effect on the state's revenue or expenditures.