

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2268

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

HB 2268 would amend law concerning property acquisition and land exchange.

Property Acquisition

The bill would allow the State Historical Society to acquire certain real property, known as the Last Chance Store, located in Council Grove, Kansas. The property would be maintained as an historic property as part of the Kaw Mission State Historic Site. According to the bill, the property could not be accepted by the State Historical Society until the Attorney General approved the deed and determined the State would receive the land in fee simple.

Land Exchange

The bill also would authorize a land exchange between Pittsburg State University and the City of Pittsburg, Kansas. Similar to other land sales and exchanges that have been authorized by the Legislature in recent years, this land exchange would be reviewed and approved by the Attorney General. The exchange would provide 72.7 acres to the City of Pittsburg in exchange for 30.3 acres to the University. This land exchange would be exempt from the following statutes: KSA 75-430a, which requires notice of intent to purchase property; KSA 2014 Supp. 75-3043a, which requires appraisal of real property; KSA 2014 Supp. 75-6609, which

*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>

requires certain procedures for the sale of surplus real estate; and KSA 2014 Supp. 75-6611, which requires a survey of land before sale.

Background

The Senate Committee of the Whole added the contents of SB 293, as recommended by the Senate Ways and Means Committee, to HB 2268.

HB 2268

At the hearing in the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs, Representative Moxley and the Executive Director of the State Historical Society appeared in support of the bill. These proponents stated the preservation of the Last Chance Store, which at one time was the last outpost where travelers could buy goods for the 600-mile trip along the Santa Fe Trail, was important for historical and educational reasons. The Executive Director of the State Historical Society stated the property was in good condition for its age and would only require minimal repairs and improvements. She also stated she believes the operation of the property as an historic site, along with the necessary repairs and improvements, could all be covered with funds already available to the State Historical Society.

At the hearing before the Senate Ways and Means Committee proponent testimony was provided by the Executive Director of the State Historical Society. There was no neutral or opponent testimony.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget states there will be no fiscal impact on the agency because the revenues and expenditures of the new property will be consolidated with those of the existing Kaw Mission Historic Site to support operations at both sites.

SB 293

The bill was introduced by the Committee on Federal and State Affairs. At the Senate Ways and Means Committee hearing, proponent testimony was provided by Senator LaTurner, who stated this land exchange would be beneficial to both parties. A representative from Pittsburg State University also testified as a proponent, stating the University and the City of Pittsburg had been in negotiations for more than a year and the exchange would support future planned growth for the University, as well as economic and community growth for the City of Pittsburg. There was no neutral or opposition testimony to the bill.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget states, according to the Board of Regents, the two tracts of land in the proposed exchange are appraised at equal value with no loss or gain for the state. The Board notes the City of Pittsburg would use the real property acquired in the exchange for housing development and Pittsburg State University would use the real property it acquires for future planned development.