

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2394

As Amended by House Committee on Education
Budget

Brief*

HB 2394 would amend the distribution of career technical education incentives to participating school districts to prorate awards when they would exceed the appropriation.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Appropriations. At the House Committee on Education Budget hearing, proponent testimony was provided by Representative Bollier that, upon investigation of the certificates being awarded in the program, most cost approximately \$50, however certain welding certifications were found to cost nearly \$500. Representative Bollier also stated the bill would provide the option to fund the certification portion of the program along with a small supplemental support to pay for uniforms, supplies, and other costs, funding for the certification tests, and \$250 per student for supplemental supplies.

A representative from the Kansas Board of Regents testified as neutral in favor of the intent of the bill but suggested increasing the award to \$300 per certification and modifying the bill language to include reimbursement of the cost of each industry-recognized credential assessment in that amount. The agency stated these changes would increase administrative efficiency and provide support for the cost of the program.

*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>

A representative of the Kansas Association of School Boards provided written testimony in opposition to the bill. During the hearing, he communicated the Association's position was neutral to the bill.

Opponents to the bill were representatives from the United School Administrators of Kansas, Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association, Associated General Contractors of Kansas, Inc., and USD 262. They all testified the reduction in funding would negatively impact all Kansas schools and reduce the number of students participating in the program that would be workforce-ready upon graduation.

The House Committee amended the bill to remove language capping aggregate awards at \$750,000 per year and lowering incentive payments to \$250 per credential plus assessment costs. This action restores the \$1,000 award amount under current law. This amount would include the cost of the credential assessment. The Committee added language to clarify the award will be distributed to those participating school districts proportionally determined by the appropriation of moneys for each year.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, on the original bill, states under current law the Kansas Board of Regents provided \$1,419,000 for the 1,419 students who had credentials issued as part of the program during FY 2014. The original bill would have provided \$250 per credentialed student plus the \$50 average cost of credential assessment for a total of \$425,700. In *The FY 2016 Governor's Budget Report*, no expenditures are included in FY 2016 or FY 2017 for the incentive program in the budget of the Kansas Board of Regents. As a result, funding of the program would require a State General Fund appropriation for FY 2016 and FY 2017. A fiscal note on the amended bill was not available at the time of the hearing.