

SESSION OF 2017

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2048**

As Amended by House Committee on  
Corrections and Juvenile Justice

**Brief\***

HB 2048 would require the State Board of Education (State Board) to implement statewide standards assuring all public school teachers receive annual training and education regarding the identification of likely warning signs indicating a child may be a sexual abuse victim. The bill would also require the State Board to review and consider statewide social and emotional standards for student education regarding protection from and reporting of child sexual abuse and the difference between appropriate and inappropriate conduct. The bill would list items that could be included in the review, including age of students, parental notification requirements and exclusion from instruction, best practices for content and delivery, and collaboration with subject matter experts and child advocates. The State Board would be required to submit a report of progress and any plan or standards developed to the Legislature by February 1, 2018.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice at the request of Representative Jennings. As introduced, the bill would have been titled "Erin's Law," and it would have required the board of education of each school district to adopt and implement a plan to address child sexual abuse for each school offering grades K-6. The bill contained certain requirements for the plan including an opt-out provision for parents, and it would

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\*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>

have required the State Board to develop materials and guidelines for use by local boards in implementing their plans.

In the House Committee hearing, representatives of Children's Advocacy Centers of Kansas, Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County, Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center, and Kansas National Education Association testified in support of the bill. Written testimony supporting the bill was submitted by Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, the executive director of Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center, and Erin Merryn, for whom the bill, as introduced, would have been titled. The chair of the State Board and representatives of the Kansas Department of Education, Kansas Association of School Boards, United School Administrators of Kansas, and Kansas Children's Service League testified as neutral conferees. A representative of Children's Alliance of Kansas testified in opposition to the bill.

The House Committee adopted amendments to replace the language of the bill, as introduced, with language requiring the State Board to implement statewide standards for teacher training and education regarding identifying child victims of sexual abuse, review and consider statewide standards for student education regarding sexual abuse, and report to the Legislature on these topics.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Kansas Department of Education indicates the bill would not affect state aid to school districts. The agency would be required to develop materials and guidelines but does not estimate a cost. School districts would likely incur additional costs in professional development and training. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill's enactment is not reflected in *The FY 2018 Governor's Budget Report*. No fiscal note was available for the bill, as amended, as of the House Committee action on the bill.