

SESSION OF 2018

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2758

As Recommended by House Committee of the
Whole

Brief*

HB 2758 would amend law governing school district bullying plans. The bill would amend the required contents of such plans to include consequences and appropriate remedial action for a person who commits an act of bullying, harassment, or cyberbullying; a procedure for reporting an act of bullying, harassment, or cyberbullying, including a provision that permits a person to make an anonymous report; a procedure for prompt investigation of reports of bullying, harassment, and cyberbullying; and a list of appropriate responses to an incident of bullying, harassment, or cyberbullying. The bill would also require the plan adopted and implemented by the local school board to be published on the district's website with a link prominently posted on the home page of such website and distributed annually to parents and guardians who have children enrolled in a school in the school district. Further, the bill would require the plan to be submitted to the State Department of Education and kept on file with the Department.

Background

HB 2758 was introduced by the House Committee on Taxation at the request of Representative Phillips and was referred to the House Committee of the Whole. The bill contains the same contents concerning bullying as HB 2578, as amended by the House Committee on Education.

*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>

HB 2578 (Teachers' Due Process Procedures; Bullying Policies)

HB 2578 was introduced by the House Committee on Education at the request of Representative Dove. As introduced, the bill only addressed school districts' bullying plans. In the House Committee hearing, representatives of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network of Greater Wichita and Education Management Consultants, as well as a case manager, a high school teacher, and a high school student, appeared in support of the bill. No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to revise the required contents of school districts' bullying plans. The House Committee also added the provisions of 2017 HB 2179, concerning teachers' due process procedures. [These provisions were reintroduced by the House Committee on Taxation during the 2018 Session as HB 2757, which was also referred to the House Committee of the Whole.]

HB 2578 was removed from the House Calendar on February 22, 2018.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2578, as introduced, enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect.