

SESSION OF 2018

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2773

As Amended by House Committee on
Appropriations

Brief*

HB 2773, as amended, would create the Kansas Safe and Secure Schools Act (Act). The bill would also make appropriations to the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) for the implementation of the Act.

Statewide Standards for Securing Public Schools

The bill would require the State Board of Education (State Board) to develop statewide standards for making all public schools safe and secure. To develop those standards, the State Board would be required to consult with the Adjutant General's Department, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and the State Fire Marshal. The State Board would also be allowed to consult with other state or local agencies or school districts if deemed necessary. The statewide standards for securing public schools would include, but would not be limited to:

- The infrastructure of school buildings, including secured entrances, windows, and other facets of the structural integrity of school buildings;
- Security technology to be utilized in school buildings, including, but not limited to, intrusion detection systems and security cameras;

*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>

- Communications systems, including for communication between school districts and law enforcement agencies; and
- Any other systems or facilities deemed necessary by the State Board.

The bill would require the State Board to develop the statewide standards for securing public schools on or before January 1, 2019. The provisions regarding statewide standards for securing public schools would expire on July 1, 2023, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature prior to July 1, 2023.

Statewide Standards for School Safety and Security Plans

The bill would require the State Board to develop statewide standards for school safety and security plans to be adopted by each school district. To develop these standards, the State Board would be required to consult with school districts. The statewide standards for school safety plans would include, but would not be limited to:

- Evaluation of school building infrastructure for compliance with statewide standards;
- Training of school district employees on school safety and security policies and procedures, and conducting student drills on emergency situations;
- Procedures for making notifications to individuals located outside of the school building during emergency situations and maintaining communication with law enforcement;
- Procedures for securing school buildings during an emergency situation;

- Procedures for emergency evacuation of school buildings;
- Procedures for recovery after an emergency situation ceases;
- Coordination and incorporation of school safety plans with existing school district emergency response plans;
- Distribution of school safety and security plans to local law enforcement and emergency management agencies;
- Procedures for ensuring there is accountability for adopting and implementing the school safety and security plan in accordance with the Act and the standards adopted by the State Board; and
- Any other policies and procedures the State Board deems necessary for school safety and security plans.

The bill would require the State Board to develop the statewide standards for school safety and security plans on or before January 1, 2019. The provisions regarding the standards for school safety and security plans would expire on July 1, 2023, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature prior to July 1, 2023.

Local Comprehensive School Safety and Security Plan

The bill would require the board of education of each school district to adopt a comprehensive school safety and security plan based on the statewide standards adopted by the State Board. Each school district would be required to consult with local law enforcement and emergency management agencies to review and evaluate:

- Existing infrastructure of school buildings; and
- Current school district safety and security policies and procedures.

Upon adoption of a school safety and security plan, the superintendent of the school district would be required to submit a copy of such plan to the State Board and to each local law enforcement and emergency management agency with which the school district consulted.

School Safety and Security Grant

The bill would establish the School Safety and Security Grant Fund, which would be administered by KSDE. All expenditures from this fund would be used for the distribution of grant moneys to school districts for school safety and security. School districts would be allowed to submit an application to the State Board for grant funds. The State Board would review such applications and determine the amount of each grant.

Firearm Safety Education Programs

The bill would allow local boards of education to provide firearm safety education curriculum. It would also require the State Board to establish curriculum guidelines for a standardized firearm safety education program. Such guidelines would include, but not be limited to, accident prevention and:

- For students in grades kindergarten through grade five, guidelines based on the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe program offered by the National Rifle Association (NRA) or any other evidence-based program;
- For students in grades six through eight, guidelines based on the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe program

offered by the NRA, the hunter education program offered by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT), or any other evidence-based program; and

- For students in grades nine through twelve, guidelines based on the hunter education program offered by the KDWPT or any other evidence-based program.

If a local board of education elects to provide firearm safety education, it would not be required to follow the curriculum guidelines established by the State Board. However, the bill would require that a school district's firearm safety education program follow the same criteria that the State Board would be required to follow in establishing its curriculum guidelines.

Appropriations

The bill would appropriate \$300,000 to KSDE from the State General Fund (SGF) for expenditures related to the implementation of the Act, including two additional employees to review and evaluate school safety and security plans and to provide technical assistance to school districts on such plans.

The bill would also transfer \$5.0 million from the SGF to the School Safety and Security Grant Fund. Additionally, any moneys expended from this fund for FY 2019 would require the receiving school district to match the moneys on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Appropriations at the request of Representative Williams. In the House Committee hearing on March 16, Representative Eric Smith, the State Fire Marshal, and representatives of the

Kansas Association of School Boards and the Kansas National Education Association testified as proponents. There was no opponent or neutral testimony.

The House Committee amended the bill by:

- Adding the State Fire Marshal to the list of state agencies the State Board would be required to consult with when developing statewide standards for public school safety and school safety and security plans;
- Adding local agencies and schools districts to the list of agencies the State Board may consult with when developing statewide standards for public school safety and school safety and security plans;
- Adding language requiring a dollar-for-dollar match from school districts receiving grants from the School Safety and Security Grant Fund for FY 2019;
- Removing the requirement that school districts offering firearm safety courses follow the curriculum guidelines adopted by the State Board; and
- Adding the requirement that school districts offering firearm safety courses follow the same criteria that the State Board would be required to follow in developing its curriculum guidelines.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the bill would have a total fiscal impact of \$5.3 million, including \$300,000 from the SGF, for FY 2019. The bill would decrease SGF revenues by \$5.0 million as the School Safety and Security Grant Fund would be funded by a revenue transfer from the SGF.