

SESSION OF 2021

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE
BILL NO. 2089**

As Amended by Senate Committee on Federal
and State Affairs

Brief*

Sub. for HB 2089, as amended, would create law related to firearm safety education programs conducted in public school districts. The bill would establish these provisions as the “Roy’Ale Act.”

The bill would allow a local school board (local board) to provide firearm safety education programs. The State Board of Education (State Board) would be directed to establish curriculum guidelines for a standardized firearm safety education program, which would be required to include accident prevention.

The bill would provide that specific programs would be used based on the grade level of students, as follows:

- Kindergarten through grade five guidelines would be based on the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe program (Eddie Eagle program) offered by the National Rifle Association (NRA) or any successor program;
- Grades six through eight guidelines would be based on the Eddie Eagle program, the Hunter Education in Our Schools program (Hunter Education) offered by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT), or, at the discretion of the board of education of the school

*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>

district, any other firearm safety education program offered by KDWP; and

- Grades nine through twelve guidelines would be based on Hunter Education or, at the discretion of the board of education of the school district, any other firearm safety education program offered by KDWP.

The bill would provide that if a local board elects to provide firearm safety education, such instruction must be in accordance with the guidelines established by the State Board. Further, if a local board elects to provide firearm safety education courses, such instruction would have to be offered so as to ensure all students are provided the opportunity to take the course.

Background

The House Committee on Federal and State Affairs replaced the contents of HB 2089 as introduced and recommended a substitute bill be passed incorporating provisions pertaining to firearm safety education in K-12 schools.

[*Note:* The firearm safety education provisions are similar to those of 2018 HB 2460 as amended by the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs.]

HB 2089, as introduced, would have authorized the Attorney General to issue an alternative license to carry a concealed handgun to qualified applicants during a declared state of disaster emergency. [*Note:* The contents of HB 2089, as introduced, were added to HB 2058 and were not retained in the substitute bill.]

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In the Senate Committee hearing, Representative Penn and a representative of the Kansas State Rifle Association provided **proponent** testimony, indicating the Eddie Eagle program began in 1988 as a gun accident prevention program to teach children what to do if they encounter a gun. The conferees further indicated Roy' Ale Spencer was a nine-year-old child in Wichita who died from an accidental shooting at a sleepover, and his mother started the Roy' Ale Foundation to advocate in honor of her son's memory. The State Director of the Kansas Chapter of the National Rifle Association provided written-only **proponent** testimony, indicating the bill would give school boards the choice to provide gun safety education under the stated standards.

The Secretary of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism provided written-only neutral testimony, suggesting the bill be amended to allow schools to substitute other KDWPT firearm safety programs for Hunter Education at the discretion of the school board.

Three private citizens provided written-only **opponent** testimony, indicating the Eddie Eagle program is not effective at teaching kids to perform gun safety skills and expressing concern that the bill would not address gun storage requirements and would take away local control from school boards in determining gun safety curriculum.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to allow school districts to substitute other KDWPT firearm safety programs for Hunter Education at the discretion of the district's board of education.

Fiscal Information

Fiscal information for the substitute bill was not available when the Senate Committee took action.

Firearm safety education; hunter education; Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism; State Board of Education; Roy' Ale Act