SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 2466

<u>As Recommended by House Committee on Education</u>

Brief*

Sub. for HB 2466 would create the Promoting Advancement in Computing Knowledge Act (PACK Act), the Computer Science Pre-service Educator Program, and authorize the State Board of Education to provide grants to high-quality professional learning providers.

PACK Act

The PACK Act would require, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, each high school operated by a school district to offer at least one computer science course, or submit to the State Board of Education (State Board) a plan describing how the district intends to offer a computer science course and in which school year such course will be offered. The bill would require such course to:

- Be high quality;

- Meet or exceed the Kansas Model Standards for Computer Science as established by the State Board; and

- Be made available in a traditional classroom setting, a blended learning environment, or an online-based or other technology-based format that is tailored to meet the needs of each high school and participating student.

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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

The bill would require the State Board, on or before January 15, 2023, and each January 15 thereafter, to prepare and submit a report to the Governor and Legislature on the progress of the PACK Act. Such report would be required to include, but not be limited to, the following information for the immediately preceding school year:

- Number of high schools that offered one or more computer science courses;

- Number of high-quality, professional learning providers that received grants from the State Board under the bill;

- Number of teachers prepared by high-quality professional learning providers;

- Number of teachers teaching computer science courses compared to number of teachers prepared by learning providers; and

- Number of students reached by high-quality learning providers.

The bill would sunset the reporting requirements on July 1, 2025.

Computer Science Pre-service Educator Program

The Computer Science Pre-service Educator Program (Program) would authorize the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) to provide scholarships, not to exceed $1,000, to pre-service teachers working towards a degree in elementary or secondary education and to licensed teachers who complete one course in computer science while enrolled in a state educational institution, community college, or certain not-for-profit institution of postsecondary education. The bill would require the KBOR to prioritize for receipt of scholarships those candidates from underrepresented groups and those candidates who agree to teach computer science in rural

schools and in schools with higher percentages of students from underrepresented groups. The bill would authorize the KBOR to coordinate with postsecondary educational institutions to develop pathways in computer science education for pre-service teachers to obtain a certification to teach computer science. The bill would require the KBOR to adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the Program, including requirements for scholarship eligibility and applications.

State Board of Education Grants

The bill would also authorize the State Board, subject to appropriations, to award grants to high-quality professional learning providers to develop and implement professional development programs for teachers to teach computer science courses. The bill would require such learning providers to submit an application to the State Board for receipt of a grant. If a grant is received, the learning provider would be required to use it for one of the following purposes:

- Providing high-quality professional learning;

- Credentialing for computer science teachers;

- Supporting computer science professional learning;

- Creating resources to support implementation of the bill;

- Student recruitment; and

- Development of teacher preparation programs.

The bill would require any such learning provider that receives a grant to provide an annual report to the State Board to include certain information. The bill would require the State Board to prioritize for the receipt of grants:

- School districts that work in partnership with providers of high-quality professional learning;

- Proposals that describe strategies to enroll female students, students from marginalized racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in computer science, students eligible for free and reduced-price meals, students with disabilities, and students who are English language learners; and

- Proposals from rural or urban areas that experience difficulties providing computer science offerings.

Background

HB 2466 was introduced by Representative Huebert.

House Committee on Education

In the House Committee hearing on HB 2466, Representative Huebert and representatives of CODE.org, Cornerstone Data, FlagshipKansas.Tech, the Kansas Association of Community Colleges, the KBOR, and Kansas State University testified as **proponents**. Proponents generally discussed the need for Kansas students to be prepared for a workforce that requires computer science skills and the need for Kansas teachers to provide students with such skills. Proponents provided information on jobs within the technology sector that are available for Kansas graduates.

Representatives of the Kansas National Education Association, the Kansas State Department of Education, and the United School Administrators of Kansas testified as **opponents**. Opponents generally stated concerns with provisions in the bill requiring students to pass a computer science course as a requirement for graduation from high school.

Representatives of the Independent College Association and the Kansas Association of School Boards provided neutral testimony.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by the Kansas Chamber, Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Wichita State University. Written-only opponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas School Superintendents Association. Written-only neutral testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas Parent Teacher Association and Game On for Kansas Schools.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Remove provisions requiring students to earn one unit of credit in an approved high school computer science course for graduation from high school;

- Remove provisions appropriating $1.0 million dollars from the State General Fund to the Kansas State Department of Education for grants to professional learning providers;

- Remove provisions appropriating $1.0 million dollars from the State General Fund to the KBOR for scholarships for teachers;

- Require the State Board to prepare and submit reports to the Governor and Legislature regarding progress of the PACK Act;

- Establish the Computer Science Pre-service Teacher Educator Program (Program);

- Make licensed teachers eligible for the receipt of scholarships under the Program; and

- Make eligible for the receipt of scholarships under the Program those pre-service or licensed teachers

enrolled in certain not-for-profit institutions of higher education.

The House Committee recommended a substitute bill be passed.

Fiscal Information

An updated fiscal note on the substitute bill was not immediately available.

Promoting Advancement in Computing Knowledge Act; Computer Science Pre-service Educator Program; education; computer science; State Board of Education; Kansas Board of Regents