

SESSION OF 2022

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE
BILL NO. 2512**

As Recommended by House Committee on
K-12 Education Budget

Brief*

Sub. for HB 2512 would amend law related to appropriations made for virtual school state aid to provide funding on a per-course basis for those students 19 years of age and under that have an earned credit to expected credit ratio of less than 75.0 percent for their cohort class year, or have dropped out of high school.

The bill would amend the Kansas Virtual School Act to require that a virtual school's graduation rate calculation shall only include those students who enrolled in a virtual school with sufficient credits to be expected to graduate in the same school year as such student's cohort group. The bill would also amend the Virtual School Act to disallow any virtual school from offering or providing any financial incentive for a student to enroll in a virtual school.

Virtual Diploma Completion

The bill would amend the virtual school finance system to provide funding on a per-course basis for a student who is 19 years of age and under and:

- Has a ratio of earned credits to expected credits for their cohort year of less than 75.0 percent when enrolling in a virtual 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>

- Has done one of the following:
 - Dropped out of high school such that the student has not attended any school of a school district for 60 consecutive days or more during the current school year and the student is not reasonably anticipated to recommence enrollment or attendance at any school or school district during the current school year;
 - Dropped out of high school such that the student has not attended any school of a school district for 60 consecutive days or more during the preceding school year, and the student did not finish such preceding school year, and the student is not reasonably anticipated to recommence enrollment or attendance at any school of a school district during the current school year; or
 - Been exempted from compulsory student attendance by written consent of the parent pursuant to KSA 72-3120; and
- Has not been counted in the enrollment of a virtual school as a full-time virtual student as a full-time or part-time virtual student during the school year in which such student enrolls as a dropout diploma completion virtual student.

The bill would authorize virtual schools to receive \$709 per passed course with a maximum for six courses per year, per eligible student.

Virtual School Graduation Rates

The bill would amend the Kansas Virtual School Act to require that a virtual school's graduation rate shall only include those students who enrolled in a virtual school with sufficient credits to be expected to graduate in the same

school year as such student's cohort group. The bill would require that this graduation rate calculation be done only at the state level for accreditation purposes.

Virtual School Financial Incentives

The bill would amend the Virtual School Act to disallow any virtual school from offering or providing any financial incentive for a student to enroll in a virtual school. A financial incentive would be defined as any monetary payment or award that is intended to encourage, entice, or motivate a student to enroll in a virtual school.

Background

Sub. for HB 2512, as recommended by the House Committee on K-12 Education Budget, incorporates the contents of HB 2602, as introduced, and HB 2649, as introduced. The background information for those referenced bills follows.

HB 2512 (Virtual Diploma Completion)

The bill was introduced the House Committee on K-12 Education Budget at the request of Representative Hoffman.

House Committee on K-12 Education Budget

In the House Committee hearing on the bill, as introduced, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative from Graduation Alliance, who stated the bill would provide school districts with an additional resource to locate, enroll, and support students that have dropped out of school.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Define “dropout diploma completion virtual student” to include students 19 years of age and under that have not attended school in the current or previous school year and are not reasonably anticipated to return, and have not been counted as full-time or part-time virtual school students at the time the students enroll as dropout completion virtual students;
- Include the contents of HB 2602, as introduced; and
- Include the contents of HB 2649, as introduced.

The House Committee recommended a substitute bill be passed.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2512, as introduced, enactment of the bill would increase virtual state aid by approximately \$426 per credit earned by a student under the age of 19 with a ratio of completed courses equal to 75.0 percent. The Kansas State Department of Education estimates that if 1.0 percent of the state’s current 33,200 high school students would qualify for this additional state aid, and would earn six credits, additional state aid that school districts would be entitled to would total \$848,592 (33,200 X .01 X \$426 = \$848,592). However, the actual number of students that would qualify is unknown. Any fiscal effect associated with this bill is not reflected in *The FY 2023 Governor’s Budget Report*.

HB 2602 (Virtual School Graduation Rates)

HB 2602 was introduced by the House Committee on K-12 Education Budget at the request of Representative Thomas.

House Committee on K-12 Education Budget

In the House Committee on K-12 Education Budget hearing on the bill, as introduced, on February 14, 2022, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Thomas and Insight School of Kansas. The proponents generally stated the bill would more accurately portray virtual school graduation rates and would have a positive impact on graduation rates at traditional brick and mortar schools.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by the Kansas State Board of Education, who stated the bill would present challenges in addressing graduation rates in virtual and physical schools.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2602, as introduced, the bill would have no fiscal impact on state aid to school districts or the Department of Education.

HB 2649 (Virtual School Financial Incentives)

HB 2649 was introduced by the House Committee on K-12 Education Budget.

House Committee on K-12 Education Budget

In the House Committee on K-12 Education Budget hearing on the bill, as introduced, on February 14, 2022, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Estes, who stated the bill would be a proactive measures to prevent the misuse of tax dollars.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2649, as introduced, the bill would have no fiscal impact on state aid to school districts or administrative costs to the Department of Education.

Education; virtual school; virtual state aid; enrollment; diploma completion