

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 481

As Amended by Senate Committee

Brief*

SB 481, as amended, would rename the Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus to Kansas State University Salina under law concerning state educational institutions.

Budgeting

The bill would direct that Kansas State University Salina be considered as a separate line item and State General Fund account under Kansas State University in budget documents and appropriations bills, starting in fiscal year (FY) 2025. The bill would remove law defining the institution as a separate state agency for budgeting purposes.

Technical Education

The bill would amend law to define technical education at Kansas Statute University Salina to mean vocational or technical education programs that advance aerospace, technology, or advanced manufacturing industries.

Insurance

The bill would amend law to allow Kansas State University Salina to purchase insurance for operation and testing of project aircraft used for education, training, and research.

*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>

Conforming and Technical Amendments

The bill would make other conforming and technical amendments recognizing Kansas State University Salina in contracts, fiscal matters, and capital projects, and subject the institution to the authority of the State Board of Regents.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means at the request of Senator Claeys.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

In the Senate Committee hearing, a representative of Kansas State University Salina provided **proponent** testimony, stating the institution's name change would align with Kansas State University's multi-campus naming convention which references geographic location. The proponent noted that changes to insurance matters are important as the institution expands the use of aerospace and drone technology beyond aircraft pilot training. A history of the institution was provided, including the merger of the former Kansas College of Technology with Kansas State University in 1991.

A representative of the Kansas Association of Community Colleges provided neutral testimony, noting concerns regarding proposed changes to admissions.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to:

- Remove all hyphens before the reference to Salina from the official name;

- Remove language pertaining to credentials, degree programs, and industry certifications; and
- Remove language pertaining to admission requirements regarding career technical education, transfers, and other degree paths.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of Budget on the bill, as introduced, Kansas State University indicates enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on the operations of the university.

Kansas State University; KSU; real estate; State Board of Regents