

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1804

By Committee on Ways and Means

6-23

10 A RESOLUTION concerning the Augenblick & Myers school funding
11 study.

12
13 WHEREAS, In 2001, the legislature contracted with the consulting
14 firm of Augenblick & Myers to provide an evaluation ~~as to~~ **of** the cost of
15 a “suitable education” for Kansas students, as required by the Kansas
16 constitution. This study was used extensively by the district and supreme
17 courts in their determinations as to what constitutes a suitable education;
18 ~~This study recommended huge increases in education funding, which has
19 been the case in the several studies produced by this firm; and~~

20 ~~WHEREAS, Augenblick & Myers studies in other states have resulted
21 in huge recommendations in increased spending from \$750 million in
22 Nebraska to \$1.3 billion in Maryland; and~~

23 WHEREAS, The study provided two cost approaches, the successful
24 school district approach, ~~which analyzed the school spending of 85 Kansas
25 school districts deemed to be successful, and the professional judgment
26 approach, which contained the wish list of a group of 59 educators and
27 proeducation activists. Needless to say, the professional judgment ap-
28 proach resulted in base costs which were 56% to 87% higher than the
29 actual costs of those districts already considered to be successful districts.
30 Strangely, the study concluded no funding was needed for salary increases
31 for teachers; and~~

32 WHEREAS, The legislature ~~takes no action on several hundred bills
33 each year, which reflects the lack of support for these bills; likewise having
34 taken no action on the Augenblick & Myers study indicates the lack of
35 support of the study by the legislature~~ **receives and considers hundreds
36 of pieces of legislation and studies each year, and it is common
37 practice to accept parts or pieces of a bill or a study while rejecting
38 the rest:** Now, therefore,

39 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That the body ~~has
40 considered~~ **does not accept** the Augenblick & Myers **school funding**
41 study ~~to be unreliable and lacking credibility and the study was unfortu-
42 nately relied upon by the courts in their call for expensive and expansive
43 changes to a system which currently produces students performing in the~~

- 1 ~~top ten states in the country~~ *as the benchmark for funding public*
- 2 *education in Kansas.*