

SESSION OF 2007

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 384**

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

**Brief\***

SB 384, as amended, would direct the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC) in collaboration with the 2010 Commission to study and make recommendations related to early childhood education. Included among the directives are the following:

- Prepare a plan which recommends the establishment of the Office of Early Childhood Education by January 1, 2009, as well as the structure of the Office;
- Develop a coordinated and comprehensive system for the delivery of early childhood education services;
- Identify priorities, barriers, and gaps in service;
- Facilitate interagency and interdepartmental cooperation;
- Encourage and facilitate joint planning and coordination between the public and private sectors to better serve children's needs;
- Make recommendations related to design of a universal application form and single point of access which would better service families of young children;
- Evaluate and report on the performance and cost effectiveness of early childhood education services and make recommendations to ensure private and public entities are accountable for the progress of children; and

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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>

- Conduct hearings so that a wide variety of input is received.

The bill would require that several *ex officio* members be added to the LEPC and 2010 Commission for purposes of this study. Those members are:

- Commissioner of Education;
- Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment;
- Secretary of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services; and
- Executive Director of the Kansas Children's Cabinet.

The bill would require the LEPC to present a report of its activities to the Governor and Legislature on or before December 31, 2007.

## **Background**

Testifying on behalf of the bill were Senator Nick Jordan, Chairman of the K-12 Education Task Force which developed the bill, and representatives of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Kansas Association of School Boards, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Early Learning Coalition, and the Kansas Children's Cabinet. A representative of the Kansas National Education Association presented neutral testimony. There were no opponents to the bill.

The Senate Education Committee amended the bill by deleting sections mandating state and local agencies providing preschool at-risk education and home visitation services to enter into memoranda of understanding; the State Board of Education develop and implement alternative licensure for preschool teachers; and the Department of Education give priority to community-based early childhood education programs when awarding funding. A second amendment

added the *ex officio* members of the LEPC for purposes of this study.

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to require the LEPC to prepare a plan which recommends the establishment of the Office of Early Childhood Education by January 1, 2009, as well as the structure of the Office.

The fiscal note estimated an additional cost to the Department of Education of \$126,092 to administer provisions of the original bill. No estimate was provided related to the fiscal impact of the amended bill.