

SESSION OF 2008

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
SENATE BILL NO. 404**

As Agreed to April 2, 2008

Brief*

SB 404 would amend current law concerning the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science (KAMS).

The bill also would require KAMS pupils to pay tuition in addition to fees. For pupils enrolled in a Kansas school district, the tuition and fees would be paid by the school district in which the pupil is enrolled but would not exceed the total of an amount equal to the current base state aid per pupil.

The procedure for selecting pupils for admission to KAMS would provide for admission of 20 pupils selected on a congressional district basis, with no more than five pupils from each of the four congressional districts and 20 other pupils on a state-wide basis. (KAMS would have a total of 80 students in its two classes.) The Board of Regents would have the authority to expand the number of pupils specified by law and could authorize admission of nonresident and international academically talented pupils, as well as additional Kansas residents. However, at least three-fourths of the total number of pupils enrolled in KAMS would be Kansas residents.

The bill would require that a school district sending a pupil to KAMS would not receive school finance weightings or the amount of local option budget attributable to the pupil.

*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/kldr>

Fees normally paid by a Kansas high school pupil would be paid by the pupil. For pupils not enrolled in a Kansas school district, the tuition and fees would be paid by the pupil.

The bill also would clarify that, solely for the purpose of KAMS, pupils would not be required to comply with the qualified admissions standards and are exempt from compulsory attendance requirements.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee on April 2, 2008, agreed to allow the Board of Regents to authorize admission of nonresident and international academically talented pupils into KAMS. However, at least three-fourths of the total number of pupils would be Kansas residents. The Conference Committee also agreed that for pupils enrolled in a Kansas school district, the tuition and fees would be paid by the school district in which the pupil is enrolled but would not exceed the total of an amount equal to the current base state aid per pupil.

Background

At the hearing held by the Senate Committee on Education, the bill was supported by Kathryne Mueller of the Kansas Board of Regents, and Dr. Edward Hammond, Fort Hays State University President.

The Senate Committee amended the introduced version of the bill to exempt pupils from qualified admissions standards for purposes of KAMS and to alter the selection process in the event that fewer than five pupils apply from any one Congressional district.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Expand the school district funding that follows the student to KAMS to include pupil weight amounts and the LOB

amount attributable to the pupil, in addition to the base state aid per pupil; and

- Eliminate the provision in the bill that would have authorized KAMS to accept out-of-state and international pupils.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget for the introduced version of SB 404 indicates that passage of the bill would have no fiscal effect on the state. The fiscal note states that SB 404 would have an effect on those students paying tuition and fees.