

SESSION OF 2008

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 399

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

SB 399 would mandate the attendance of half-day kindergarten and amend the compulsory school attendance law to lower the age at which children are required to attend school in Kansas from seven years old to six years old. Children would be exempt from the requirement if a written statement signed by a parent or person acting as a parent of the child requesting an exemption is filed with the board of the school district where the child resides before August 1 of the school year.

Background

Senator Kelly supported the bill. During the Committee hearing, there were no opponents of the bill.

The Senate Committee on Education amended the bill by removing the provision that required a recognized church or religious denomination submit detailed information regarding the education program to be provided in lieu of public kindergarten attendance to the State Board of Education for approval. The Committee made a conforming amendment to the bill relating to the age at which a child is required to attend school.

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to allow children to be exempt from the kindergarten requirement if the child's parent or person acting as a parent objects and files a written and signed statement before August 1 with the board of the school district.

There was no fiscal note for the amended bill.

*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>