

SESSION OF 2008

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 507**

As Amended by Senate Committee on  
Education

**Brief\***

SB 507, as amended, would establish the Mathematics, Engineering, Technology, and Science (METS) Education Innovation Council. The Council would be attached to the Department of Commerce. The 14-member Council would include members selected by legislative leadership, the Governor, the State Board of Education, and the State Board of Regents, as well as the Secretary of Commerce who would serve as a nonvoting, *ex officio* member.

The Council would be responsible for:

- Identifying innovative METS programs available for implementation in Kansas school districts and determining which programs would provide Kansas students with the greatest competitive advantage for attaining postsecondary degrees and careers in related fields;
- Evaluating the school districts' efforts to communicate to parents and students the growing demand for professionals in careers that require coursework in METS and their efforts to encourage students to pursue degrees in those subjects;
- Examining the availability of teacher internships in the private sector and making recommendations on the appropriate level of private sector professionals' involvement in the classroom;

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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>

- Making recommendations on appropriate admissions requirements for students entering certificate and associate degree programs in METS;
- Evaluating the creation and maintenance of a longitudinal data bank which would maintain data on students from preschool through career; and
- Conducting hearings and considering suggestions from teachers, parents, the Department of Education, the State Board of Regents, the State Board of Education, other governmental officers and agencies, and the general public about suggested improvements in METS education.

The Council would submit reports to the Legislature on its work and recommendations by December 31 of each year. The Council would exist until December 31, 2012.

## **Background**

At the hearing held by the Senate Committee on Education, the bill was supported by Senator Jordan, Eric Stafford of Associated General Contractors, and Jackie Taylor for Kansas Inc. Mark Tallman of the Kansas Association of School Boards testified in opposition to the bill.

The Senate Committee on Education amended the bill by requiring that one of the three members appointed by the State Board of Education be a member of a local school board. The Committee also deleted a provision that would require the Council to examine the implementation and development of flexible career plans for eighth-grade students.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget for the introduced version of SB 507 indicates that passage of the bill would require additional expenditures of \$239,000 from the State General Fund.