

SESSION OF 2008

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2734

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Education

Brief*

HB 2734, as amended, would guarantee a newly consolidated district the combined general fund budget of the former school districts which comprise such consolidated district for a five-year period. Current law guarantees the combined general fund budget for three years.

The bill would amend the high density at-risk pupil weighting of the school finance plan. The bill creates a new weighting called the medium density at-risk pupil weighting. School districts having an enrollment of at least 40.0 percent at-risk pupils but less than 50.0 percent at-risk pupils would qualify to receive the medium density at-risk pupil weighting which would be determined by the state board by multiplying the number of at-risk pupils in the district by a factor of .06. School districts having an enrollment of at least 50.0 percent at-risk pupils or an enrollment of at least 35.1 percent at risk pupils and an enrollment density of at least 212.1 pupils per square mile would continue to be eligible for the high density at-risk pupil weighting which would be determined by the state board by multiplying the number of at-risk pupils by a factor of .10.

Any district that becomes ineligible for the medium density at-risk pupil weighting or the high density at-risk pupil weighting because the district no longer meets the requirements specified in the bill, would receive the greater of the weighting in the current school year; the weighting in the prior school year; or the average of the weighting in the current school year and the preceding two school years.

*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>

Background

Proponents of the original HB 2734 included Representative Clay Aurand, the Kansas Association of School Boards, and the Kansas National Education Association.

The House Education Committee amended the bill by clarifying the application of the bill to school districts and the number of years the various-sized school districts would be guaranteed general fund budgets. It also delayed the bill's effective date until July 1, 2010.

The Senate Education Committee amended the bill by removing its contents and inserting the current law regarding general fund budget guarantees when two school districts consolidate but expanding the number of years that guarantee covers from three years to five years.

The Senate Education Committee also amended the bill, inserting the wording of SB 623, as amended, which would protect districts from losing high density at-risk funding.

The Department of Education indicated there would be no fiscal effect as the higher school districts' enrollments would already be included in the school finance calculation.