

SESSION OF 2010

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1630**

As Amended by Senate Committee
on Commerce

Brief*

SCR 1630 would express the state's support for the Pierre Auger Observatory project that is proposed to be built in southeastern Colorado, near the Kansas border. The concurrent resolution would form a task force comprised of ten members that would lead the state's collaboration effort. Membership would include a representative from the Board of Regents, the Kansas Bioscience Authority, University of Kansas, Wichita State University, and Kansas State University. The Governor, the President and the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House also would be members. Each elected official could select a designee.

Background

The prime sponsor of the concurrent resolution, Senate President Stephen Morris, testified in favor. Additional proponent testimony was provided by physicists from the Colorado School of Mines, University of Chicago, and University of Nebraska.

The Pierre Auger Collaboration includes 400 scientists from more than 70 universities in 17 nations. The group plans to build an observatory to study ultra high energy cosmic rays. The southern hemisphere phase of the project, called Auger South, was built in the Argentine Province of Mendoza. It was

*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>

completed in 2008 and spans 1,200 square miles. Auger South is comprised of 24 fluorescence telescopes and 1,600 surface detectors. Each detector is comprised of a tank that holds 3,000 gallons of water. The tank is lined with sensors that record the energy signature which occurs when a particle from a cosmic ray collides with a water molecule.

The second phase proposes a site in eastern Colorado that could be expanded into western Kansas. Auger North would span 8,000 square miles and include 39 fluorescence telescopes and 4,400 surface detectors.

There was no opponent testimony.

The Senate Committee on Commerce amended the concurrent resolution to clarify the recipients of enrolled copies of the document.