

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2613

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

HB 2613, as amended, would create a statewide Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) educator in the Office of the Attorney General.

D.A.R.E. Educator

The bill would establish the position of D.A.R.E. educator within the Office of the Attorney General with the following responsibilities:

- Provide D.A.R.E. curriculum instruction, including content on fentanyl and other opioids, to public K-12 schools; and
- Perform services and provide materials and information necessary to support the D.A.R.E. program in Kansas.

D.A.R.E. Fund

The bill would also establish the D.A.R.E. Fund in the State Treasury and authorize the Office of the Attorney General to administer the fund. The fund would be for the purpose of supporting the D.A.R.E. program within the state and would be subject to appropriations.

*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

The bill was introduced by Representative Essex.

House Committee on Education

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Essex, representatives of the Johnson County Sheriff's Office, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, and Office of the Attorney General, and private citizens. The proponents generally stated that drug abuse prevention education in public schools is lacking both in availability and consistency, and a statewide D.A.R.E. educator would help address those gaps. The proponents also highlighted the current dangers of fentanyl and its impact on teenagers and young adults.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Blue Valley School District, D.A.R.E. America, Kansas Association of Counties, Office of the Attorney General, Olathe Public Schools, and private citizens.

Opponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund (Children's Cabinet). The conferee noted they were in full support of the D.A.R.E. Program, and their opposition was due solely to the transfer of funds from the Kansas Endowment for Youth (KEY) Fund. The conferee further explained the KEY Fund is the source of funding for the Children's Initiative Fund which is utilized by the Children's Cabinet and other state agencies to fund various early childhood programs.

Neutral testimony was provided by the Kansas National Education Association.

No other testimony was provided.

House Committee of the Whole

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to remove the demand transfer of \$300,000 from the KEY Fund.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Office of the Attorney General states the bill would require the addition of 1.0 FTE and \$125,000 for the new position of D.A.R.E. educator and all remaining funds from the transfer would be utilized to expand the program. The State Department of Education states the bill would have no fiscal effect on the agency.

Any fiscal effect from the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget*.

Education; Drug Abuse Resistance Education; D.A.R.E.; Office of Attorney General; K-12 Schools; drugs; fentanyl; opioid