(Corrected)

As Amended by House Committee

As Amended by Senate Committee

Session of 2025

SENATE BILL No. 76

By Committee on Education

1-27

AN ACT concerning education; relating to employees of school districts and postsecondary educational institutions; enacting the given name act to require such employees to use the name and pronouns consistent with a student's biological sex and birth certificate; <u>authorizing a cause of action</u> providing for the submission of civil complaints for violations therefor.

WHEREAS, Employees of school districts and postsecondary educational institutions do not shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at work; and

WHEREAS, Protecting the right to free speech for such employees promotes the important interests of students receiving informed opinions on matters of public concern, employee rights to disseminate their own opinions and exposing our children and future leaders to different viewpoints; and

WHEREAS, The selection and use of pronouns in classrooms, on campuses and elsewhere is not merely an administrative or ministerial act, but instead is a matter of free speech and academic freedom as it communicates a message on a matter of public concern and shapes classroom discussion and debate.

Now, therefore:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

- Section 1. (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the given name act.
- (b) No employee of a school district—or postsecondary educational institution, regardless of such employee's official duties, shall address a minor—or student with a:
- (1) Pronoun or title that is inconsistent with the biological sex of such minor-or student unless the employee has the written permission of such minor's-or student's parent; and
- (2) name other than the name listed on the minor's or student's birth certificate, or a derivative of such name, without the written permission of the minor's or student's parent.

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- (c) No employee of a school district or postsecondary educational institution shall be subject to an adverse employment action for declining to address an individual using a name other than the name listed on the individual's birth certificate or a pronoun or title that is inconsistent with the individual's biological sex.
- (d) No student shall be subject to any disciplinary action for declining to address an individual using a name other than the name listed on the individual's birth certificate or a pronoun or title that is inconsistent with the individual's biological sex.
- (e) A person who is harmed by a violation of this section may bring a eause of action for injunctive relief, monetary damages, reasonableattorney fees and any other appropriate relief Any parent of a student enrolled in a school district who is aggrieved by a violation of this section may file a complaint alleging such violation with the board of education of such school district. Such complaint shall be submitted in writing and provide details of such violation. The board of education shall appoint a committee to investigate any such complaints. The committee shall meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint. Within 30 days after receiving a complaint, the committee shall submit a written recommended response and proposed steps to remedy the complaint to the board of education. The board of education shall take action on any such recommendations at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to preclude any individual from pursuing any other remedies for a violation of this section available at law.
 - (f) As used in this section:
- (1) "Minor" means an unemancipated individual under 18 years of age.
- (2) "Parent" means natural parent, adoptive parent or person legally authorized to act on behalf of the child.
- (3) "Postsecondary educational institution" means the same as defined in K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments thereto.
- (4) "Student" means any unemancipated individual under 18 years of age who is enrolled in and attending a public school or postsecondary educational institution.
- Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.