

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 384

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Education

Brief*

SB 384, as amended, would amend the Public Innovative District Act (Act) by changing certain timelines and deadlines within the Act and providing that an application is deemed approved if applications are not acted upon within the required period. The bill would take effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

The bill would change the various deadlines within the Act, including:

- School district applications to the State Board of Education (State Board) for approval to operate as a public innovative district would change from December 1 to May 1;
- Reduce the State Board's window to review and act upon a school district application from 90 days to 45 days after receipt of an application; and
- Reduce the State Board's window to act upon a request for reconsideration from 60 days to 45 days after receipt of such request.

The bill would also provide that should the State Board or the Public Innovative District Coalition Board not act upon a school district's application within the windows established in the Act then the district's application would be deemed to be approved.

*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 <https://klrd.gov/>

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Education at the request of a representative of O'Neil Consulting.

Senate Committee on Education

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas School Board Resource Center and USD 329 (Wabaunsee). The proponents generally stated the bill would align application deadlines and approval timelines with school budgeting, staffing, and hiring realities, reduce regulatory burdens, and help districts more quickly plan and implement innovative programs aimed at improving student outcomes.

Opponent testimony was provided by a representative for the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB). The conferee stated they have not heard concerns from members about current timelines, expressed concern the bill could be a step toward loosening regulations to expand charter schools, and said any changes should retain affirmative approval, complete application requirements, and public notice protections.

Opponent written-only testimony was provided by representatives of the State Board.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to increase the time the State Board has to consider an application for approval and to reconsider an application to 45 days and adopted technical amendments.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) indicates the bill could increase the agency's expenditures if the State Board was required to call a special meeting, as the State Board currently only meets for two days once a month. However, KSDE cannot estimate the number of additional meetings that would be required with the enactment of the bill and cannot estimate a fiscal effect.

KASB indicates enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on school districts.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *the FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

Public innovative district; school district; State Board of Education; Kansas State Department of Education; May 1