

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 396

As Amended by Senate Committee on Local
Government, Transparency and Ethics

Brief*

SB 396, as amended, would authorize the Board of Trustees of the Clearwater Cemetery District (Board) located in Sedgwick County to reorganize by adoption of a resolution. The bill would also provide for procedures to facilitate the reorganization.

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Reorganization Resolution

The bill would authorize the Board to adopt a resolution by majority vote to remove Ohio Township from the district. The bill would require the resolution to provide for the election of the at-large member of the Board by the Board itself at its next meeting following the adoption of the resolution. [Note: The qualifications of the at-large member are described below.]

The bill would also require a copy of the reorganization resolution to be mailed to the Sedgwick County Clerk, and would deem the reorganization to be effective on January 1, 2026.

Board Membership

The bill would provide the membership of the

*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/>

reorganized board to be the following three members:

- The Mayor of the City of Clearwater;
- The Township Trustee of Nennescah Township; and
- One member elected at-large.

The bill would provide for the first election of the at-large Board member at the 2026 general election, and every four years thereafter. The bill would require the election to be nonpartisan.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Local Government, Transparency and Ethics at the request of Senator Bowers.

Senate Committee on Local Government, Transparency and Ethics

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was presented by a representative of Ohio Township and the Mayor of the City of Clearwater. The conferees generally stated the only cemetery in Ohio Township is generally inactive and this is an agreed-upon compromise to reduce the tax burden on Ohio Township.

No other testimony was provided.

The Committee amended the bill to specify when the Board would elect the first at-large member of the Board and that the at-large member would stand for election on a nonpartisan basis.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note provided by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the League of Kansas Municipalities indicates the City of Clearwater will likely have increased expenditures for the upkeep and maintenance of a cemetery; however, the League was unable to determine an exact fiscal effect.

Clearwater cemetery district; cemetery districts