

SESSION OF 2012

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 260

As Amended by House Committee on Education

Brief*

Beginning in school year 2012-2013 and each school year thereafter, the bill would direct the State Board of Education to determine the minimum and maximum amounts of state aid paid to districts for the costs of special teachers. (The term "special teachers" includes special education teacher and paraprofessionals working with special education students.) Minimum and maximum factors would be determined in the following manner. The total special education per teacher entitlement would be divided by the current school year's full-time equivalent enrollment of exceptional children receiving special education and related services by all school districts and the current school year's number of exceptional children under the age of four receiving special education and related services provided by local education agencies multiplied by 0.5. The result of this calculation would determine an average per pupil amount. Any district with a special education per pupil amount below 75 percent of that statewide average, determined above, would receive additional funding; districts receiving 150 percent of that average would have funding decreased.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Legislative Educational Planning Committee. The bill, as introduced, would repeal the portion of the special education state aid formula that determines the minimum and maximum amount of special education state aid a school district may receive.

*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>

In the Senate Education Committee's hearing, representatives from the Cowley County Special Services Cooperative, Chautauqua and Elk County Special Education Services, Doniphan County Education Cooperative, Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators, Topeka Public Schools, Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services, Northwest Educational Service Center, and High Plains Educational Cooperative were proponents of SB 260. There were no opponents.

The Senate Education Committee made a technical correction to the bill.

At the hearing on the bill in the House Education Committee, proponents included representatives of the Winfield and Topeka school districts, special education cooperatives in Chautauqua, Elk, and Doniphan counties, the High Plains Special Education Cooperative, the Kansas Association of Special Education Administration, and the Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services. There were no opponents.

The House Education Committee reinserted the provision related to the portion of the special education state aid formula that determines the minimum and maximum amount of special education state aid a school district may receive. The Committee also added a provision that would include the number of exceptional children under the age of four receiving special education services in the calculation of the average per pupil amount of special education funding.

According to the Division of the Budget fiscal note on the original bill, the bill's enactment would have no fiscal effect. There was no fiscal note on the amended bill.