

SESSION OF 2020

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2385

As Amended by House Committee on Federal
and State Affairs

Brief*

HB 2385, as amended, would designate the polka and the square dance as the official dances of the State of Kansas.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Representative Ellis.

In the House Committee hearing on February 19, 2020, proponent testimony was provided by Senator Miller and a private citizen. The proponents generally testified concerning the benefits of dancing, particularly the polka, and emphasized the history and heritage reflected specifically through the polka. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a representative of Kansas Czechs, Inc., and three private citizens.

Opponent testimony was provided by the Presidents of the Kansas Square Dance Association, the President of the Kansas Square Dance Callers Association, and a private citizen. The opponents stated square dance occurs in many venues across the state, including at Kansas Day celebrations in many schools. Written-only opponent testimony was provided by three private citizens.

*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>

The House Committee amended the bill to include the square dance, in addition to the polka, as one of the official state dances.

According to the fiscal note provided by the Division of the Budget in 2019, the Kansas Historical Society indicated enactment of the bill as introduced would have no fiscal effect on state revenues or expenditures.