

SESSION OF 2023

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 116**

As Recommended by Senate Committee on  
Federal and State Affairs

**Brief\***

SB 116 would create law related to firearm safety education programs conducted in public school districts.

The bill would allow local school boards (local board) to provide firearm safety education programs. The State Board of Education (State Board) would be directed to establish curriculum guidelines for a standardized firearm safety education program, which would be required to include accident prevention.

The bill would provide that specific programs would be used based on the grade level of students, as follows:

- Kindergarten through grade five guidelines would be based on the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe program (Eddie Eagle program) offered by the National Rifle Association (NRA) or any successor program;
- Grades six through eight guidelines would be based on either the Eddie Eagle program, or any successor program, or the Hunter Education in Our Schools program (Hunter Education), offered by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), or any successor program; and
- Grades nine through twelve guidelines would be based on Hunter Education or any successor program.

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\*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 bill would provide that if a local board elects to provide firearm safety education, such instruction must be in accordance with the guidelines established by the State Board. Further, if a local board elects to provide firearm safety education courses, such instruction would have to be offered so as to ensure all students are provided the opportunity to take the course.

## **Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Blasi. [Note: Provisions of this bill are similar to 2021 Sub. for HB 2089 and 2022 SB 522.]

### ***Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs***

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Penn, Representative Schmoe, representatives of the Kansas State Rifle Association and National Rifle Association, and a private citizen. The proponents stated the bill would standardize firearm safety education across the state and could prevent accidents involving children and firearms.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, National Shooting Sports Foundation, and Safari Club International.

**Opponent** testimony was provided by a high school student and a private citizen, stating the effectiveness of the Eddie Eagle program at preventing gun accidents involving children is unclear.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas National Education

Association, Kansas Parent Teacher Association, and State Board of Education and five private citizens.

Written-only neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Association of School Boards.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Department of Education indicates enactment of the bill would require the creation of a Standards Development Committee, which would meet multiple times over the course of a year to develop the required standards. Costs for the process would include development and review of materials, transportation reimbursement for some in-person meetings, and other development costs at an estimated cost of \$70,000, all from the State General Fund. The Department notes that local school districts would incur costs to train teachers and purchase new curriculum materials; however, the cost of these materials would not be known until the standards are developed. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

K-12 education; firearms; firearms safety education; curriculum guidelines; State Board of Education