

SESSION OF 2023

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 163

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Local Government

Brief*

SB 163 would establish the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center District Act (Section 1).

Election Question (Section 3)

The bill would require the board of county commissioners (commission) of Douglas County to submit the following question to the voters of Douglas County at the next primary election or general election or at a special election:

Shall a Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center district be established and authorized to levy a tax not to exceed 0.5 mills on all taxable tangible property located in the district to fund the budget of the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center as determined by the board of directors of the district?

Upon approval by a majority of county voters, the bill would dissolve the existing board of directors for Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center (Center), and require the commission to establish, by resolution:

- The first seven-member board (board) of directors;
- The criteria for serving on the board; and

*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 term of office for members of the first board.

Board of Directors (Sections 3, 5, 7)

The bill would bestow the following responsibilities and obligations on the board:

- For the first board only, selecting board officers and determining the method of selection and term of future board members;
- Electing a chairperson, secretary, and treasurer annually;
- Determining the date and location of regular meetings annually; and
- Preparing and publishing an annual budget for maintenance and support of the district in accordance with Kansas statute regarding taxing subdivisions of the state.

The bill would require the treasurer to give bond in an amount fixed by the board and filed with the Douglas County clerk. It would specify duties of the treasurer: to pay out funds on orders of the board, keep accurate records of all moneys received and disbursed, and make monthly reports;

The bill would authorize the board to levy a tax of no more than 0.5 mills on all taxable tangible property in the district to fund the budget. The bill would specify the tax would be levied and collected in the same manner as other taxes, be kept in a separate fund, and not be considered a tax levy of Douglas County or the city of Lawrence.

District Responsibilities and Powers (Sections 4, 6)

The bill would state all contracts previously entered into by the Center shall be binding on the district, and all

outstanding bonds, debts, and other obligations of the Center shall become an obligation of the district as well.

The bill would make the district a body corporate and politic and authorize the district to:

- Enter into contracts;
- Sue and be sued;
- Acquire, hold, and convey real and personal property;
- Make and adopt rules and regulations for the administration of the district;
- Lease sites and buildings for district purposes;
- Acquire necessary material and equipment for the maintenance and extension of the center;
- Employ persons as the board deems necessary;
- Receive, accept, and administer moneys appropriated or granted to it by the State, federal government, or private industry;
- Receive, accept, and administer any gift or donation to the district; and
- Make annual reports to the board of county commissioners of Douglas County, on or before January 31 for the previous calendar year.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Local Government at the request of Senator Francisco.

Senate Committee on Local Government

In the Senate Committee hearing, Senator Francisco and a representative of the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center provided **proponent** testimony. The proponents noted the Center is supported by Douglas County and the city of Lawrence, and passage of the ballot question and establishment of the district would provide ongoing county financial support.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the Secretary of State indicates enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect. The Kansas Department of Revenue also indicates enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates Douglas County would no longer be responsible for taxing to fund the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center, as the bill would create the new district with its own taxing authority for the territory within Douglas County.

Any fiscal effect is not reflected in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center; election question; Douglas County; mill levy; tax district