

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MADAM PRESIDENT and MR. SPEAKER: Your committee on conference on House amendments to **SB 323** submits the following report:

The Senate accedes to all House amendments to the bill, and your committee on conference further agrees to amend the bill as printed with House Committee of the Whole amendments, as follows:

On page 1, in line 17, by striking "two hours" and inserting "one hour";

By striking pages 2 through 10;

On page 11, by striking lines 1 through 27 and inserting:

"New Sec. 2. (a) There is hereby established a language assessment program to be coordinated by the Kansas commission for the deaf and hard of hearing. The purpose of the program is to assess, monitor and track the language developmental milestones of children who are deaf or hard of hearing from birth through the age of eight. The recognized languages used in the education of children who are deaf and hard of hearing are English and American sign language. The scope of the program includes children who may use one or more communication modes in American sign language, English literacy and, if applicable, spoken English and visual supplements.

(b) On and after July 1, 2018, an annual language assessment shall be given to each child who is deaf or hard of hearing and who is less than nine years of age. Language assessments shall be provided either through early intervention services administered by the Kansas department of health and environment, or if the child is three years of age or older, through the school district in which the child is enrolled. Such language assessments shall be

provided in accordance with the provisions of this section and any recommendations adopted pursuant to this section.

(c) There is hereby established within KCDHH an advisory committee on the language assessment program. The advisory committee shall consist of 16 members as follows:

(1) Nine members of the advisory committee shall be appointed by the governor as follows:

(A) One member shall be a credentialed teacher of the deaf who uses both ASL and English during instruction;

(B) one member shall be a credentialed teacher of the deaf who uses spoken English with or without visual supplements during instruction;

(C) one member shall be a credentialed teacher of the deaf who has expertise in curriculum development and instruction of ASL and English;

(D) one member shall be a credentialed teacher of the deaf who has expertise in assessing language development in both ASL and English;

(E) one member shall be a speech language pathologist who has experience working with children from birth through the age of eight;

(F) one member shall be a professional with a linguistic background who conducts research on language outcomes of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and use ASL and English;

(G) one member shall be a parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing and who uses both ASL and English;

(H) one member shall be a parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing and who uses spoken English with or without visual supplements; and

(1) one member who is knowledgeable about teaching and using both ASL and English in the education of children who are deaf and hard of hearing; and

(2) seven members of the advisory committee shall be ex officio members as follows:

(A) One member shall be the executive director of KCDHH;

(B) one member shall be the coordinator of the sound start program, or such coordinator's designee;

(C) one member shall be the KCDHH commission member representing the state school for the deaf, or such commission member's designee;

(D) one member shall be the KCDHH commission member representing the department of health and environment, or such commission member's designee;

(E) one member shall be the KCDHH commission member representing the state board of education, or such commission member's designee;

(F) one member shall be the coordinator of the early intervention program administered by the department of health and environment, or such coordinator's designee; and

(G) one member shall be the coordinator of the early education program administered by the department of education, or such coordinator's designee.

(d) The executive director of KCDHH shall call an organizational meeting of the advisory committee on or before August 1, 2016. At such organizational meeting, the members shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson from the membership of the advisory committee. The advisory committee may meet at any time and at any place within the state on the call of the chairperson. A quorum of the advisory committee shall be nine members. All actions of the advisory committee shall be by motion adopted by a majority of those members present when there is a quorum. Any vacancy on the committee shall be filled in accordance with subsection

(c).

(e) On or before January 31, 2018, the advisory committee shall develop specific action plans and make recommendations necessary to fully implement the language assessment program. In carrying out its charge under this section, the committee shall:

(1) Collaborate with the coordinating council on early childhood developmental services and the Kansas state special education advisory council;

(2) solicit input from professionals trained in the language development and education of children who are deaf or hard of hearing on the selection of specific language developmental milestones;

(3) review, recommend and monitor the use of existing and available language assessments for children who are deaf or hard of hearing;

(4) identify and recommend qualifications of language professionals with knowledge of the use of evidence-based, best practices in English and American sign language who can be available to advocate at IFSP or IEP team meetings;

(5) identify qualifications of language assessment evaluators with knowledge on the use of evidence-based, best practices with children who are deaf or hard of hearing and the resources for locating such evaluators; and

(6) identify procedures and methods for communicating information on language acquisition, assessment results, milestones, assessment tools used and progress of the child to the parent or legal guardian of such child, teachers and other professionals involved in the early intervention and education of such child.

(f) The specific action plans and recommendations developed by the advisory committee shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Language assessments that include data collection and timely tracking of the child's development so as to provide information about the child's receptive and expressive language compared to such child's linguistically age-appropriate peers who are not deaf or hard of hearing;

(2) language assessments conducted in accordance with standardized norms and timelines in order to monitor and track language developmental milestones in receptive, expressive, social and pragmatic language acquisition and developmental stages to show progress in American sign language literacy, English literacy, or both, for all children who are deaf or hard of hearing from birth through the age of eight;

(3) language assessments delivered in the child's mode of communication and which have been validated for the specific purposes for which each assessment is used, and appropriately normed;

(4) language assessments administered by individuals who are proficient in ASL for ASL assessments and English for English assessments;

(5) use of assessment results, in addition to the assessment required by federal law, for guidance on the language developmental discussions by IFSP and IEP teams when assessing the child's progress in language development;

(6) reporting of assessment results to the parents or legal guardian of the child and the applicable agency;

(7) reporting of assessment results on an aggregated basis to the committees on education of the house of representatives and the senate; and

(8) reporting of assessment results to the members of the child's IFSP or IEP team, which may be used, in addition to the assessment required by federal law, by the child's IFSP or IEP team, as applicable, to track the child's progress, and to establish or modify the IFSP or IEP.

(g) The state department of education, the department of health and environment and the state school for the deaf shall enter into interagency agreements with KCDHH to share statewide aggregate data.

(h) On or before January 31, 2019, and each January 31 thereafter, KCDHH shall publish a report that is specific to language and literacy developmental milestones of children who are deaf or hard of hearing for each age from birth through the age of eight, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing and have other disabilities, relative to such children's peers who are not deaf or hard of hearing. Such report shall be based on existing data reported in compliance with the federally required state performance plan on pupils with disabilities. KCDHH shall publish the report on its website.

(i) The advisory committee shall cease to exist from and after July 1, 2018.

(j) As used in this section:

(1) "ASL" means American sign language.

(2) "English" means English literacy, spoken English, signing exact English and morphemic system of signs, CASE, cued speech and any other visual supplements.

(3) "IEP" means individualized education program.

(4) "IFSP" means individualized family service plan.

(5) "KCDHH" means the Kansas commission for the deaf and hard of hearing.

(6) "Language" means a complex and dynamic system of conventional symbols that is used in various modes for thought and communication.

(7) "Literacy" includes the developmental stages of literacy, including pre-emergent, emergent and novice levels, as necessary beginning stages to master a language.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 75-2319 is hereby amended to read as follows: 75-2319. (a)

There is hereby established in the state treasury the school district capital improvements fund. The fund shall consist of all amounts transferred thereto under the provisions of subsection (c).

(b) ~~Subject to the provisions of subsection (f),~~ In each school year, each school district which is obligated to make payments from its capital improvements fund shall be entitled to receive payment from the school district capital improvements fund in an amount determined by the state board of education as provided in this subsection.

(1) For general obligation bonds approved for issuance at an election held prior to July 1, 2015, the state board of education shall:

(A) Determine the amount of the assessed valuation per pupil (AVPP) of each school district in the state and round such amount to the nearest \$1,000. The rounded amount is the AVPP of a school district for the purposes of this subsection (b)(1);

(B) determine the median AVPP of all school districts;

(C) prepare a schedule of dollar amounts using the amount of the median AVPP of all school districts as the point of beginning. The schedule of dollar amounts shall range upward in equal \$1,000 intervals from the point of beginning to and including an amount that is equal to the amount of the AVPP of the school district with the highest AVPP of all school districts and shall range downward in equal \$1,000 intervals from the point of beginning to and including an amount that is equal to the amount of the AVPP of the school district with the lowest AVPP of all school districts;

(D) determine a state aid percentage factor for each school district by assigning a state aid computation percentage to the amount of the median AVPP shown on the schedule, decreasing the state aid computation percentage assigned to the amount of the median AVPP by one percentage point for each \$1,000 interval above the amount of the median AVPP, and

increasing the state aid computation percentage assigned to the amount of the median AVPP by one percentage point for each \$1,000 interval below the amount of the median AVPP. Except as provided by K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 75-2319c, and amendments thereto, the state aid percentage factor of a school district is the percentage assigned to the schedule amount that is equal to the amount of the AVPP of the school district. The state aid percentage factor of a school district shall not exceed 100%. The state aid computation percentage is 25%;

(E) determine the amount of payments that a school district is obligated to make from its bond and interest fund attributable to general obligation bonds approved for issuance at an election held prior to July 1, 2015; and

(F) multiply the amount determined under subsection (b)(1)(E) by the applicable state aid percentage factor.

(2) For general obligation bonds approved for issuance at an election held on or after July 1, 2015, ~~but prior to July 1, 2017~~, the state board of education shall:

(A) Determine the amount of the AVPP of each school district in the state and round such amount to the nearest \$1,000. The rounded amount is the AVPP of a school district for the purposes of this subsection (b)(2);

(B) prepare a schedule of dollar amounts using the amount of the AVPP of the school district with the lowest AVPP of all school districts as the point of beginning. The schedule of dollar amounts shall range upward in equal \$1,000 intervals from the point of beginning to and including an amount that is equal to the amount of the AVPP of the school district with the highest AVPP of all school districts;

(C) determine a state aid percentage factor for each school district by assigning a state aid computation percentage to the amount of the lowest AVPP shown on the schedule and

decreasing the state aid computation percentage assigned to the amount of the lowest AVPP by one percentage point for each \$1,000 interval above the amount of the lowest AVPP. Except as provided by K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 75-2319c, and amendments thereto, the state aid percentage factor of a school district is the percentage assigned to the schedule amount that is equal to the amount of the AVPP of the school district. The state aid computation percentage is 75%;

(D) determine the amount of payments that a school district is obligated to make from its bond and interest fund attributable to general obligation bonds approved for issuance at an election held on or after July 1, 2015, ~~but prior to July 1, 2017~~; and

(E) multiply the amount determined under subsection (b)(2)(D) by the applicable state aid percentage factor.

(3) For general obligation bonds approved for issuance at an election held on or before June 30, 2016, the sum of the amount determined under subsection (b)(1)(F) and the amount determined under subsection (b)(2)(E) is the amount of payment the school district is entitled to receive from the school district capital improvements fund in the school year.

(4) For general obligation bonds approved for issuance at an election held on or after July 1, 2016, the amount determined under subsection (b)(2)(E) is the amount of payment the school district shall receive from the school district capital improvements fund in the school year, except the total amount of payments school districts receive from the school district capital improvements fund in the school year for such bonds shall not exceed the six-year average amount of capital improvement state aid as determined by the state board of education.

(A) The state board of education shall determine the six-year average amount of capital improvement state aid by calculating the average of the total amount of moneys expended per year from the school district capital improvements fund in the immediately preceding six fiscal

years, not to include the current fiscal year.

(B) (i) Subject to clause (ii), the state board of education shall prioritize the allocations to school districts from the school district capital improvements fund in accordance with the priorities set forth as follows in order of highest priority to lowest priority:

(a) Safety of the current facility and disability access to such facility as demonstrated by a state fire marshal report, an inspection under the Americans with disabilities act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq., or other similar evaluation;

(b) enrollment growth and imminent overcrowding as demonstrated by successive increases in enrollment of the school district in the immediately preceding three school years;

(c) impact on the delivery of educational services as demonstrated by restrictive inflexible design or limitations on installation of technology; and

(d) energy usage and other operational inefficiencies as demonstrated by a district-wide energy usage analysis, district-wide architectural analysis or other similar evaluation.

(ii) In allocating capital improvement state aid, the state board shall give higher priority to those school districts with a lower AVPP compared to the other school districts that are to receive capital improvement state aid under this section.

(C) On and after July 1, 2016, the state board of education shall approve the amount of state aid payments a school district shall receive from the school district capital improvements fund pursuant to subsection (b)(5) prior to an election to approve the issuance of general obligation bonds.

(5) The sum of the amounts determined under subsection (b)(3) and the amount determined or allocated to the district by the state board of education pursuant to subsection (b) (4), is the amount of payment the school district is entitled to receive from the school district

capital improvements fund in the school year.

(c) The state board of education shall certify to the director of accounts and reports the entitlements of school districts determined under the provisions of subsection (b), and an amount equal thereto shall be transferred by the director from the state general fund to the school district capital improvements fund for distribution to school districts. All transfers made in accordance with the provisions of this subsection shall be considered to be demand transfers from the state general fund, except that all such transfers during the fiscal years ending June 30, 2013, June 30, 2014, June 30, 2015, and June 30, 2016, shall be considered to be revenue transfers from the state general fund.

(d) Payments from the school district capital improvements fund shall be distributed to school districts at times determined by the state board of education to be necessary to assist school districts in making scheduled payments pursuant to contractual bond obligations. The state board of education shall certify to the director of accounts and reports the amount due each school district entitled to payment from the fund, and the director of accounts and reports shall draw a warrant on the state treasurer payable to the treasurer of the school district. Upon receipt of the warrant, the treasurer of the school district shall credit the amount thereof to the bond and interest fund of the school district to be used for the purposes of such fund.

(e) The provisions of this section apply only to contractual obligations incurred by school districts pursuant to general obligation bonds issued upon approval of a majority of the qualified electors of the school district voting at an election upon the question of the issuance of such bonds.

(f) On or before the first day of the legislative session in 2017, and each year thereafter, the state board of education shall prepare and submit a report to the legislature that includes

information on school district elections held on or after July 1, 2016, to approve the issuance of general obligation bonds and the amount of payments school districts were approved to receive from the school district capital improvements fund pursuant to subsection (b)(4)(C).

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 75-2319 is hereby repealed.";

And by renumbering sections accordingly;

On page 1, in the title, in line 1, by striking all after "concerning"; by striking all in lines 2 through 5; in line 6 by striking all before the period and inserting "education; relating to capital improvement state aid; creating a language assessment program for children who are deaf or hard of hearing; creating the Jason Flatt act; requiring suicide prevention training for school district personnel; amending K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 75-2319 and repealing the existing section";

And your committee on conference recommends the adoption of this report.

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Conferees on part of House

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Conferees on part of Senate