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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Nick Myers, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: March 14, 2018
Subject: Substitute for House Bill 2602

Substitute for House Bill 2602 would establish the legislative task force on dyslexia. The task force would advise and make recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, and the State Board of Education on the use of evidence-based practices for students with dyslexia. The task force's report would be due by December 1, 2018.

The task force would be required to:

1. Research and recommend evidence-based reading practices for schools to address dyslexia;
2. Research and recommend professional development activities to address reading difficulties like dyslexia, including identification of dyslexia and effective interventions to be used in schools and within degree programs;
3. Examine state and federal laws and rules and regulations that affect students with dyslexia;
4. Identify screening and evaluation assessments and protocols that can be used and the appropriate personnel to administer such assessments to identify children with dyslexia as part of an ongoing reading progress monitoring system, multi-tiered system of supports, and child find special education eligibility for students.

The task force would be composed of the following 19 members:

- Three Senators with one appointed by the President, one appointed by the Majority Leader, and one appointed by the Minority Leader;
- Three Representatives with one appointed by the Speaker, one appointed by the Majority Leader, and one appointed by the Minority Leader;
- Two members appointed by the State Board of Education;
- One member who is a professor employed by a state educational institution with expertise in evidence-based reading practices for dyslexia appointed by the President of the State Board of Regents;
- Two members who are principals of public schools appointed by the United School Administrators of Kansas;
- Four members who are the parents of children with a diagnosis of dyslexia appointed by Keys for Networking, Inc., Families Together, Inc., and Decoding Dyslexia Johnson County;
- One member appointed by the Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators;
- One member who is a building level reading specialist appointed by the Commissioner of Education;
- One member who is a licensed psychologist or speech-language pathologist who diagnosis dyslexia appointed by the chairperson of the task force; and
- One member from a nonprofit service provider for children diagnosed with dyslexia appointed by the chairperson of the task force.

The State Board of Education would designate one of its members as the chairperson of the task force. An organizational meeting of the task force would be required to be called by the chairperson on or before July 15, 2018. The task force would not meet more than six times and would be authorized to hold meetings by telephone or video conference. If approved by the Legislative Coordinating Council, members of the task force may be paid expenses for mileage and subsistence as provided in K.S.A. 75-3223(e).

Currently, Sub for HB 2602 provides that a quorum of the task force would be nine members which is less than half of the total membership of the task force. An amendment adopted by the House Committee of the Whole increased the membership of the task force from 17 to 19 but did not make a corresponding update to the quorum number.