

SESSION OF 2020

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 271**

As Recommended by House Committee on  
Education

**Brief\***

House Sub. for SB 271 would create law related to the distribution of certain information to students in grades 7 through 12 and amend law related to citizenship education.

***Distribution of Information***

The bill would require the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) to ensure the distribution, electronic or otherwise, of certain information to all students in grades 7 through 12. Information to be distributed would include:

- The Kansas State Board of Regents (KBOR) degree prospectus information;
- The program report of the Kansas Training Information Program; and
- Any other information relevant to students' understanding of potential earnings as determined by the Department of Labor and each branch of the armed services of the U.S. military.

The bill would also authorize KSDE to enter into memorandums of understanding and other agreements with state agencies or other entities as needed to accomplish this task.

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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>

## ***Citizenship Education***

The bill would permit accredited high schools to include instruction on information necessary to pass the naturalization test administered by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services as a part of the course of instruction in U.S. government required of all such high schools.

## **Background**

SB 271, as it passed the Senate, would have extended the sunset on the high-density at-risk weighting. The House Committee on Education (House Committee) removed these provisions and inserted the provisions of HB 2519 and citizenship education provisions related to those contained in HB 2573. Upon inserting provisions related to citizenship education, the House Committee eliminated the provision of HB 2573 that would have added a citizenship test as a graduation requirement and made education related to the naturalization test a permissive element of existing U.S. government education. The background for HB 2519 and HB 2573 is contained below.

### ***HB 2519***

The bill was introduced by the House Committee at the request of Representative Huebert.

In the House Committee hearing, proponent testimony was offered by a representative of the Opportunity Solutions Project, stating the bill would give Kansas students helpful information as they consider their activities after high school. Neutral testimony was offered by a representative of the KBOR, who stated the bill was duplicative with information already compiled and maintained by KBOR. Opponent testimony was offered by representatives of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, the Kansas Independent College Association, and the Kansas National

Education Association, who stated the provisions of the bill were duplicative with existing information and would divert resources from educating students to administrative compliance.

The House Committee amended the bill to eliminate provisions requiring KSDE to compile and produce a database of information related to postgraduate outcomes of various college degrees and replace it with the requirement that KSDE ensure distribution of the existing information described above.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2519 as introduced, the Department of Education indicates the bill would increase annual expenditures by \$595,580 to develop and maintain the database. The requirement for this database was eliminated by the House Committee's amendments. A revised fiscal note on the bill, as amended, was not immediately available. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2021 Governor's Budget Report*.

### **HB 2573**

HB 2573 was introduced by the House Committee at the request of Representative Huebert.

In the House Committee hearing, proponent testimony was provided by the Attorney General and Representative Huebert, stating HB 2573 would enhance civics education in Kansas. Written-only proponent testimony was offered by Conservative Leaders in Education and Excellence in Education. Opponent testimony was offered by representatives of the Kansas Association of School Boards and the Kansas National Education Association stating the bill would not improve civics education and unnecessarily impeded on the authority of local school boards. Written-only testimony in opposition was offered by Olathe Public Schools USD 233 and USD 229 Blue Valley Schools.

HB 2573 was withdrawn from the House Committee and referred to the House Committee on Appropriations on February 26, 2020.

According to the fiscal note provided by the Division of the Budget on HB 2573 as introduced, the KSDE estimates that additional expenditures of \$400,000 from the State General Fund would be required to administer exams required by the bill. The requirement for the exam was removed by the House Committee's amendments. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2573 is not reflected in *The FY 2021 Governor's Budget Report*.