

SESSION OF 2020

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 337

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Education

Brief*

SB 337, as amended, would require the State Board of Education (State Board) to provide the ACT college entrance exam, ACT WorkKeys assessments, and the pre-ACT at no charge to any person enrolled in any public or accredited nonpublic school in Kansas. Current law requires the State Board to provide those examinations at no charge to students enrolled in public schools.

The bill would also require the State Board to submit an annual report to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education that includes aggregate exam and assessment data for all students who were provided the examinations and assessments by the State Board.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Education at the request of Senator Braun.

In the Senate Committee hearing on the bill, proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Pottawatomie County Economic Development Corporation and Wamego High School, noting that more students would be able to make more informed career decisions and have improved individual plans of study results due to the

*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>

increased number of students taking ACT WorkKeys assessments and pre-ACT exams.

Opponent testimony was provided by a representative of United School Administrators of Kansas and the Kansas School Superintendents' Association, stating that state tax dollars should not be spent on nonpublic schools and that all public moneys should remain in public schools. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to require the State Board of Education to submit an annual report to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education that includes aggregate examination and assessment data for all students who are provided the examinations.

In continuing law (KSA 2019 Supp. 72-5132), "school district" is defined to refer to a public school district.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill as introduced, the bill would not require additional funding. The contract to provide the examinations and assessments, which costs \$2.8 million from the State General Fund in FY 2020 and FY 2021, would cover students attending accredited nonpublic schools in Kansas.