

SESSION OF 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2777

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

HB 2777 pertains to the authority of school district and community college governing boards and to municipalities and to alternate teacher preparation programs.

**Authority of School District and Community
College Boards and Municipalities**

The bill makes the following changes to expand governing board powers to:

- ! Permit school district and community college governing boards, now authorized under the statute being amended to spend money from the general fund to pay annual dues to the Kansas Association of School Boards, also to pay dues to any other organization and to make dues payments out of any of the school district or community college funds.
- ! Allow school district boards, which now may delegate to the superintendent of schools the power to execute contracts on behalf of the district for the purchase of goods and services if the value of such goods or services is less than \$10,000, to make such delegation to other employees of the district.
- ! Permit a person designated by a municipality (includes school districts) to pay a claim in advance of a governing board meeting when the claim requires action prior to the next board meeting. (Currently, advance payment may be made when the claim involves a discount for early payment or provides for assessment of a penalty for late payment.)

*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.accesskansas.org/legislature/>

Alternate Teacher Preparation Program

An Alternate Teacher Preparation Program is a program provided for by the State Board of Education under contractual arrangements with an accredited Kansas teacher education institution having an approved teacher education program and with accredited schools and which is designed to ensure the attainment of the basic competencies necessary for teaching through correlation of professional development at the teacher education institution with practical experience at an accredited school.

The alternate teacher preparation program requires a teacher licensure applicant to complete:

- ! Nine semester hours of professional development study at the teacher education institution, including adolescent psychology, foundations of education, classroom management, and methodology. Professional development study may be taken during a summer or regular session and must be completed by the applicant prior to entry into the classroom.
- ! A 10 contact hour preservice orientation conducted by the employing school prior to a classroom assignment.
- ! An internship of two school years. During internship, the applicant will enroll in three credit hours of internship each semester. Successful completion of the internship would result in waiver of the student teaching requirement.
- ! Professional development coursework during the second year of internship or the second summer of participation in the program as needed to meet professional development standards set by the State Board of Education.

During internship, a teacher licensure applicant will be supervised by a team of three persons consisting of a mentor teacher from the accredited school employing the applicant, the building principal, and a faculty member from the teacher education institution. The supervisory team will meet at least three times per school year to evaluate, consult with, and provide advice to the applicant. The last meeting of

the first year of internship will result in a recommendation for discontinuation or the program or continuation for the second year of internship. Successful completion of the program results in a recommendation for licensure.

In order to receive institutional recommendation for initial licensure, the applicant successfully must complete the required semester hours of professional development and the two years of internship. The applicant will be suspended from the program by failure to attain a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale or for causes for suspension under State Board of Education rules and regulations.

A teacher licensure applicant must:

- ! Hold a baccalaureate or higher degree, earned with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale, granted by an accredited college or university.
- ! Have earned academic credits appropriate to meeting subject and field requirements for licensure with an endorsement at the secondary level for such subject or field.
- ! Take and pass the PPST or other basic skills test as prescribed by the State Board of Education.
- ! Apply for and receive from the State Board of Education a restricted license valid for three years and renewable in accordance with State Board rules and regulations.
- ! Fulfill formal requirements for admission to a teacher education program at an accredited Kansas teacher education institution.
- ! Meet all nonacademic requirements of the teacher education institution upon which the applicant will depend for initial institutional recommendation.
- ! Receive and document an offer of a teaching position at an accredited Kansas school in accordance with State Board of Education rules and regulations.
- ! Pay a fee approved by the State Board of Education as part of the contractual arrangement with the teacher education institution and

employing accredited school, in an amount determined to be necessary for payment of the costs of the program including the costs related to the credit hours of professional development study and internship, the costs for travel expenses of the teacher education institution faculty member of the supervisory team, and the costs for remuneration of the principal and mentor teacher members of the supervisory team. The applicant and employing accredited school will share equally in the costs for remuneration of the principal and mentor teacher.

Upon successful completion of the alternate teacher preparation program, a teacher licensure applicant may apply for licensure. The State Board will review the application and the recommendation of the teacher education institution and grant or deny licensure.

Upon completion of each school year, commencing with the 2004-05 school year, the State Board of Education will report to the Governor and the Legislature on the effectiveness of the alternate teacher preparation program.

Background

Proponents of HB 2777, as introduced, included Representative Huff and a spokesperson for Shawnee Mission (USD 512).

Concerning memberships, the spokesperson for Shawnee Mission explained that USD 512 has been informed that the district does not have authority to pay memberships, except to the Kansas Association of School Boards and Kansas State High School Activities Association for which specific statutory authority has been granted. USD 512 currently is paying dues from school district and activity funds for such things as participation in the Sunflower League and for a multitude of student clubs aligned with curriculum areas. Competitions in some of these areas are contingent upon membership in the sponsoring organization. The district also belongs to organizations from which periodicals not available without a membership are provided. Other examples of dues payment also were mentioned.

With regard to the amendment authorizing school board delegation to employees other than the superintendent to enter into contracts for

the purchase of goods and services in amounts less than \$10,000, the conferee noted that the 2001 Legislature specifically had authorized school district boards to make such a delegation to the superintendent. This action raised the question of whether the board has the power to delegate this authority to other employees as well. The amendment clarifies this matter.

The representative from Shawnee Mission cited examples associated with processing employees' salary withholding and making these payments to the state and federal government and paying registrations and travel that could be accomplished in a timely manner under the amendments.

The Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) explained that its position on the bill is neutral. KASB said that each of the items in the bill represents a common sense choice that should be determined at the local level. KASB believes that the proper solution to issues such as those contained in HB 2777 is to give local school boards broader powers of local control (see SB 166).

The fiscal note on HB 2777, as introduced, states that the bill would have no fiscal effect on the State Department of Education.

The House Committee of the Whole added the amendment concerning recognition of the Alternate Teacher Preparation Program.