

SESSION OF 2005

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 44

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Education

Brief*

SB 44 would amend the statutes governing the Teacher Service Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to students who are planning to teach in a hard-to-fill discipline or underserved geographic area.

Under current law, a hard-to fill discipline is defined as one in which there is a critical shortage of teachers as determined by the Board of Education. SB 44 would specifically add math and science instruction for grades five through 12 to the definition.

This bill also would add definitions of state educational institution and private postsecondary institution to this section of statute. SB 44 would make technical amendments to clarify that students attending institutions other than the state universities must be attending an institution in Kansas.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Education. Proponents of the bill testifying to the Senate Committee were Senator Jim Barnett and representatives of Emporia State University, Unified School District 456, and the Kansas Board of Regents. There were no opponents to the bill testifying to the Committee.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to remove proposed language giving priority for awarding the scholarship to students planning to teach math and science. Committee amendments also

*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>

changed the lower grade level in the definition of hard-to-fill discipline from six to five and made technical corrections.

The Division of the Budget's fiscal note on the bill as introduced stated that there would be no fiscal impact because the language is permissive and the program is subject to appropriations.