

SESSION OF 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 485

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

SB 485 would amend current law regarding the time line for the appeal and decision on suspension and expulsion of students. The bill would provide that the local board of education must render its decision on suspension and expulsion of students who have appealed their ruling no later than the next regularly-scheduled board meeting following the date of the appeal hearing's conclusion. However, if the hearing officer's report recommends reinstatement of the student, the student would be entitled to attend school until the school board renders its final decision. Under current law, the board must render its decision within five calendar days of the conclusion of the hearing.

Background

Representatives of USD 259, Wichita and Kansas Association of School Boards appeared as proponents for the bill. The representative from USD 259 explained that this is a hardship when 84 percent of all local boards only meet once a month. The Wichita board hears approximately 27 such appeals during the year and with the five-day requirement they are put into the position of calling a special board meeting or attempting to gain a time waiver from the parents of the student in question.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill by adding the provision that if the hearing officer's report recommends reinstatement of the student, the student would be entitled to attend school until the school board renders its final decision.

The fiscal note indicates that the enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on the Department of Education and should not affect school districts' costs for appeal hearings.

*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>