

SESSION OF 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 508

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Education

Brief*

SB 508 concerns human sexuality education programs in public schools and would enact the "Abstinence Plus Education Act." The bill would require each school district to provide a comprehensive education program in human sexuality which would emphasize the benefits of abstinence and provide information about sexually transmitted infections and diseases.

Human sexuality education programs pursuant to the Act would have to do the following:

- Include age appropriate instruction at the elementary and secondary grade levels;
- Require that all teachers who teach courses in human sexuality hold the appropriate license to provide such instruction;
- Require that teachers and building administrators have appropriate academic preparation or in-service training to develop a basic knowledge of the human sexuality area;
- Require that all curriculum and materials be factual, medically accurate, and age appropriate; and
- Include a procedure under which any pupil shall be excused, at the request of the pupil's parent or guardian, from any or all portions of the program without any penalty resulting from such action.

Nothing in the Abstinence Plus Education Act would be construed as requiring, endorsing, or encouraging the establishment of school-based health clinics or the teaching of birth control methods.

*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>

Background

SB 508 is patterned after rules and regulations of the Kansas Board of Education which were revoked when new accreditation rules and regulations were adopted July 1, 2005. The new regulation which replaces the revoked regulation requires school districts to offer “physical education, which shall include instruction in health and human sexuality” (KAR 2004 Supp. 91-31-32). Under the new regulation, school districts are required to offer programs that include human sexuality at both the elementary and secondary levels, pursuant to locally-developed policies.

Eighteen individuals appeared before the Senate Education Committee or submitted written testimony in support of SB 508. One individual presented testimony in opposition to the bill.

The Senate Committee amendment corrected a grammatical error.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, passage of the bill would have no fiscal impact on the state.