

SESSION OF 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 588

As Amended by House Committee on
Higher Education

Brief*

SB 588 would establish the Technical College and Vocational Education School Commission. The Commission would consist of seven voting members:

- Two members selected by the Board of Regents:
 - A member of the Board of Regents; and
 - A president of a technical college;
- One member selected by the Governor who would be the chairperson of the Commission; and
- One member selected by each of the Senate President, the House Speaker, and the Minority Leaders of the Senate and House.

The President of the Board of Regents would be an *ex officio*, non-voting member. Members appointed by the Governor and by legislators would have to be selected from the business and industry communities and the instructional staff of the technical colleges.

The charge of the Commission would be to study the governance, funding, mission, and performance of technical colleges and vocational education schools. The Commission must submit its first report and recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 2007, and its final report by January 1, 2008. The Commission would be required to review and consider recommendations made regarding technical schools and colleges by the Board of Regents. Both reports would be submitted to the House Higher Education Committee, Senate Education Committee, and the Legislative Educational Planning Committee as well as to the Governor and the State Board of Regents.

*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>

Members of the Commission would receive compensation and allowances as statutorily provided for members of boards and commissions. Those expenditures would be financed from the Board of Regents budget. Staffing for the Commission would be provided and coordinated by the Board of Regents. Other staff assistance may be provided by the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, Legislative Administrative Services, and others as directed by the Legislative Coordinating Council.

Background

At the hearing on the bill in the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, representatives of the Board of Regents and Wichita Area Technical College testified in favor of the bill. A representative of the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges testified in favor of the bill and requested amendments. In addition, written testimony supporting the bill was submitted from Northwest Kansas Technical College. A representative from the Kansas National Education Association requested amendments to the bill.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to change the membership to include a president of a technical college; to add the President of the Board of Regents as an ex officio, non-voting member; and to provide that consideration in selecting members be given toward individuals in the business community and instructional staff. Amendments also clarify that staffing of the Commission would include Legislative Administrative Services and others as directed by the Legislative Coordinating Council.

The House Committee on Higher Education received testimony in support of the bill from representatives of the State Board of Regents, the Kansas National Education Association, Kaw Area Technical School and Wichita Area Technical College. No opponents of the bill presented testimony to the House Committee.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Include performance in the scope of the Commission's work;
- Specify entities that would receive the Commission's reports;
- Clarify that the Commission's recommendations should include recommendations for legislation or other legislative action;

- Require the Commission to review and consider recommendations made by the Board of Regents in regard to technical colleges and schools;
- Shift financing of Commission expenses from the Legislature's to the Board of Regents' budget; and
- Shift primary responsibility for providing staffing from legislative agencies to the State Board of Regents.

The fiscal note from the Division of the Budget notes that the fiscal impact of the bill would be limited to the compensation of Commission members. The House Committee amendments would change the agency responsible for those expenses, but would not likely alter the magnitude of the fiscal impact.