

SESSION OF 2007

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2310**

As Agreed to April 27, 2007

**Brief\***

HB 2310 would make changes to the School District Finance and Quality Performance Act regarding requirements related to school districts qualifying for the cost-of-living or declining enrollment weightings. The bill would allow those districts which had levied a tax for such purposes in school year 2006-2007 to continue to levy a tax at a rate that would generate the same amount of revenue as was generated in school year 2006-2007, as long as the district adopts a local option budget (LOB) in an amount which equaled or exceeded the amount of LOB adopted in school year 2006-2007.

HB 2310 would direct the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC) in collaboration with the 2010 Commission to study and make recommendations related to early childhood education. Included among the directives are the following:

- Prepare a plan which recommends the establishment of the Office of Early Childhood Education by January 1, 2009, as well as the structure of the Office;
- Develop a coordinated and comprehensive system for the delivery of early childhood education services;
- Identify priorities, barriers, and gaps in service;
- Facilitate interagency and interdepartmental cooperation;

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\*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/kldr>

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- Encourage and facilitate joint planning and coordination between the public and private sectors to better serve children's needs;
- Make recommendations related to design of a universal application form and single point of access which would better service families of young children;
- Evaluate and report on the performance and cost effectiveness of early childhood education services and make recommendations to ensure private and public entities are accountable for the progress of children; and
- Conduct hearings so that a wide variety of input is received.

The bill would require that several *ex officio* members be added to the LEPC and 2010 Commission for purposes of this study. Those members are:

- Commissioner of Education;
- Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment;
- Secretary of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services; and
- Executive Director of the Kansas Children's Cabinet.

The bill would require the LEPC to present a report of its activities to the Governor and Legislature on or before December 31, 2007.

The bill also would require that, beginning on July 1, 2007, teachers or licensed personnel at the Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB) and the Kansas State School for the Deaf (KSSD) be paid a rate of compensation that is not less than the rate of compensation paid to teachers or licensed personnel at Unified School District (USD) 233, Olathe, as of September 1 of the preceding school year. The requirement would apply to

teachers or licensed personnel at KSSB and KSSD with levels of education and experience comparable to those at USD 233.

### **Conference Committee Action**

The Conference Committee deleted all provisions of the original HB 2310 and inserted the following provisions:

- Allow school districts qualifying for the cost-of-living or declining enrollment weighting that had levied a tax for such purposes in school year 2006-2007 to continue to levy a tax at a rate that would generate the same amount of revenue as was generated in school year 2006-2007 as long as the district adopts a local option budget (LOB) in an amount which equaled or exceeded the amount of LOB adopted in school year 2006-2007.
- Direct the Legislative Educational Planning Committee in collaboration with the 2010 Commission to study and make recommendations related to early childhood education. (Originally SB 384)
- Require that, beginning on July 1, 2007, teachers or licensed personnel at the Kansas State School for the Blind and the Kansas State School for the Deaf be paid a rate of compensation that is not less than the rate of compensation paid to teachers or licensed personnel at USD 233, Olathe, as of September 1 of the preceding year. (Originally HB 2422)

### **Background**

The bill's provisions regarding USDs' eligibility for cost-of-living and declining enrollment weighting were part of SB 69 as amended by the House Committee on Education.

At the hearing on the original SB 69, representatives of the Shawnee Mission School District, Lawrence School District, and

the Kansas Association of School Boards testified in favor of the bill. A representative of the Kansas City School District opposed the bill. A representative of the Kansas National Education Association testified as a neutral on the bill.

The Senate Education Committee amended the bill by changing the date the legislation would take effect to publication in the *Kansas Register*. The Committee also made a technical amendment that deleted a special provision that applied only in school year 2005-2006.

The House Committee on Education amended the bill to restore the requirement that in order to qualify for the cost-of-living or declining enrollment weighting a district must have adopted an LOB in an amount equal to the state prescribed percentage, except for those districts which had levied a tax for such purposes in school year 2006-2007. Any district which had levied a tax for such purposes in school year 2006-2007 could continue to make the levy in the same amount levied in school year 2006-2007 as long as the district adopts an LOB in an amount which equals or exceeds the amount of LOB adopted in school year 2006-2007.

The House Education Committee also amended the bill to reduce the amount of revenue which may be derived from the cost-of-living weighting from 5 percent of the general fund budget of the district to 4 percent in school year 2007-2008; 3 percent in school year 2008-2009; and 2 percent in school year 2009-2010 and each school year thereafter.

**SB 384.** Testifying on behalf of the bill were Senator Nick Jordan, Chairman of the K-12 Education Task Force which developed the bill, and representatives of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Kansas Association of School Boards, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Early Learning Coalition, and the Kansas Children's Cabinet. A representative of the Kansas National Education Association presented neutral testimony. There were no opponents to the bill.

The Senate Education Committee amended the bill by deleting sections mandating state and local agencies providing preschool at-risk education and home visitation services to enter into memoranda of understanding; the State Board of Education develop and implement alternative licensure for preschool teachers; and the Department of Education give priority to community-based early childhood education programs when awarding funding. A second amendment added the *ex officio* members of the LEPC for purposes of this study.

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to require the LEPC to prepare a plan which recommends the establishment of the Office of Early Childhood Education by January 1, 2009, as well as the structure of the Office.

**HB 2422.** At the House Education Committee hearing on the bill, Representative Arlen Siegfried, the superintendents of the KSSB and the KSSD, and a representative of the Kansas National Education Association testified in favor of the bill. There was no testimony in opposition to the bill.

The House Committee amended the bill to have teachers at the KSSB and the KSSD be paid a rate of compensation not less than that of teachers at USD 233 as of September 1 of the preceding school year, instead of September 1 of the current school year.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to include licensed personnel who are paid on the teacher salary schedule including, but not limited to, librarians, counselors, and nurses.

The fiscal note related to the original bill regarding the cost of living and declining enrollment weightings for USDs indicated no additional state appropriation would be required because the cost-of-living weighting is financed through a local property tax. The fiscal note did not address the declining enrollment weight. However, no fiscal note was available related to the amendments.

The original fiscal note regarding KSSB and KSSD, from the Division of the Budget, indicated that the fiscal impact of the bill for FY 2008 would be \$189,644 from the State General Fund for the difference in the rate of compensation for the 2006-07 school year. This amount includes \$73,209 for the KSSB and \$116,435 for the KSSD. The fiscal note also reported that USD 233 will not complete contract negotiations for the 2007-08 school year until after the end of the legislative session when the KSSB and the KSSD budgets are approved. The estimated fiscal impact for the 2007-08 school year would be based on the difference between the USD 233 teacher salary plan and the State of Kansas salary plan. According to the fiscal note, any fiscal impact resulting from the passage of HB 2422 would be in addition to amounts included in *The FY 2008 Governor's Budget Report*.

There was no fiscal estimate regarding the amended early childhood education provision.