

SESSION OF 2007

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF  
SENATE BILL NO. 68**

As Agreed to April 3, 2007

**Brief\***

SB 68 would remove the sunset date on the nonproficient weighting within the school finance formula.

The bill would require school district boards to adopt policies prohibiting bullying on school property, in a school vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity. The bill also would require each school district to adopt and implement a strategic plan to address bullying, which must include provisions for training and education for staff and students.

The bill would require the State Board of Education to assist any school district deciding to offer grade-appropriate curriculum for character development programs. Offering such programs would be voluntary for school districts.

The bill also would simplify the provisions of law relating to the procedures school districts must follow when adopting local option budgets (LOB).

Finally, the bill would allow school districts experiencing a disaster which causes the district to be unable to participate in state assessment tests, to continue to receive the nonproficient student weighting equal to the amount received in the prior year, with approval of the State Board of Education.

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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>

## **Conference Committee Action**

The Conference Committee added several provisions to SB 68, as amended by the Senate Committee on Education. Substitute for House Bill No. 2310, as amended by the Senate Committee of the Whole, was added requiring school district boards to adopt policies prohibiting bullying on school property, in a school vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity. The bill also would require each school district to adopt and implement a strategic plan to address bullying, which must include provisions for training and education for staff and students. The Committee added a requirement that the State Board of Education assist any school district deciding to offer grade-appropriate curriculum for character development programs. Offering such programs is voluntary for school districts.

The Committee further amended the bill by adding provisions that would simplify the law relating to the procedures school districts must follow when adopting local option budgets (SB143).

A technical amendment resolved a conflict in the definition section.

Finally, the Conference Committee added a provision that would allow school districts experiencing a disaster which causes the district to be unable to participate in state assessment tests, to continue to receive the nonproficient student weighting equal to the amount received in the prior year, with approval of the State Board of Education.

## **Background**

SB 68, as amended by the Senate Education Committee, would remove the sunset date on the nonproficient weighting within the school finance formula. The House Education Committee made several amendments; however, the Conference Committee used the original SB 68, as amended by

Senate Education, adding the following provisions from other bills.

The Conference Committee added Substitute for House Bill 2310 requiring school districts to adopt policies prohibiting bullying and implement plans to address bullying on school property, in school vehicles, or at school-sponsored events. The Committee added a requirement that the State Board of Education assist any school district deciding to offer grade-appropriate curriculum for character development programs. Offering such programs would be voluntary for school districts.

The Conference Committee also added the portion of SB 143 that simplified the law relating to the procedures school districts must follow when adopting local option budgets

A Senate amendment to HB 2093 also was added by the Conference Committee which would allow school districts experiencing a disaster which causes the district to be unable to participate in state assessment tests, to continue to receive the nonproficient student weighting equal to the amount received in the prior year, with approval of the State Board of Education.

The fiscal impact of the bill designed by the Conference Committee is unknown.

nonproficient weighting bullying school finance formula