SESSION OF 2008

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2605

As Amended by House Committee on Education

Brief*

HB 2605 would modify the formula used to calculate the high-density, at-risk weighting in the school finance formula. This bill would provide for a linear transition calculation to determine the high-density at-risk pupil weighting of school districts. The weighting would apply to districts having an enrollment of at least 44.0 percent at-risk pupil enrollment and would increase, based on a linear formula, as the enrollment of at-risk pupils in a district increased. The calculation would level off at an enrollment of 55.0 percent at-risk pupils.

Background

Under current law, districts having an enrollment of at least 40.0 percent at-risk pupils qualify for a weighting of .06 and districts having an enrollment of at least 50.0 percent at-risk pupils qualify for a weighting of .10. Under current law, small increases or decreases in enrollment of at-risk pupils could cause great fluctuations in the amount of funding a district receives with the weighting.

Proponents of the bill included representatives of the Kansas Association of School Boards, Pittsburg USD 250, and the Kansas National Education Association, who suggested one amendment. Opponents of the bill included representatives of the Kansas City, Kansas, Public Schools and United School Administrators of Kansas.

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*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

The House Education Committee amended the bill to raise the floor to qualify for the weighting from 35.0 percent to 44.0 percent at-risk pupils and adjusted the multiplier to .01 in school year 2008-09 and each school year thereafter.

The Department of Education indicated the bill would have no fiscal effect on the state; however, individual school districts may experience increases or decreases to amounts received under the current formula for high-density, at-risk weighting.