

SESSION OF 2013

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2222**

As Amended by House Committee on Education

**Brief\***

HB 2222 would amend current law related to school district policies on bullying. Current law defines “bullying” as an intentional gesture or threat creating an intimidating environment for a student or staff member. The bill would clarify the definition of bullying to mean any threat by a student, staff member, or parent toward a student or by any student, staff member, or parent toward a staff member. The bill would define “parent” to include a guardian, custodian, or other person with authority to act on behalf of a child. The bill would define “staff member” to mean any person employed by the school district. The bill would require these changes be reflected in the school districts’ policies and plans to address bullying.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Education. Proponents of the bill included four parents, two students, and a special education advocate/developmental disability case manager. A representative of the Kansas Association of School Boards also was a proponent *via* written testimony. Neutral testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas Children’s Service League and Kansas National Education Association. There were no opponents.

The House Committee amended the bill to specify that threats against a student or staff member by a staff member

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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>

or parent would be clearly delineated in school districts' bullying policies and plans.

The fiscal note by the Division of the Budget on the original bill indicated the bill would have no fiscal effect.