

SESSION OF 2014

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 264

As Amended by Senate Committee on Federal
and State Affairs

Brief*

SB 264, as amended, would require any school district building construction project, beginning January 1, 2015, to include a storm shelter in any student attendance center building. All storm shelters would be required to comply with rules and regulations adopted by the Adjutant General's Department, in coordination with the State Board of Education.

The bill would apply to any school district building project that would construct a new building or modify an existing building. Building projects would have to include a storm shelter that complied with the new rules and regulations for any building that includes a student attendance center. The bill would define building project to mean construction of a new school district building or any remodeling or modifying project costing 50.0 percent or more of the insured value of an existing building. The definition would exclude those school district buildings not being used as student attendance centers.

Background

The bill as introduced would have required all school district buildings, whether housing students or used for other purposes, to include compliant storm shelters in new and in remodeled buildings.

*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>

Proponents for the bill included representatives of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Adjutant General's Department, and of the American Institute of Architects' (AIA) Kansas Disaster Assistance Committee.

Neutral testimony was presented by representatives of the Kansas Association of School Boards and the Wichita Public Schools (USD 259). The Deputy Commissioner of Education also answered questions about the bill.

The Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs heard subsequent clarifying testimony from former Senator Emler, who served on the Joint Committee on Kansas Security and who suggested an amendment to narrow the application of the bill to only student attendance centers, which the Senate Committee adopted.

The fiscal note for the bill as introduced states the Department of Education indicated that most school district projects already include storm shelters, and that the fiscal effect would be negligible.