

SESSION OF 2019

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 128**

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

**Brief\***

SB 128, as amended, would amend law related to the minimum number of safety drills required to be conducted in schools each school year.

The bill would require the State Fire Marshal to adopt rules and regulations requiring administrators of public and private schools and educational institutions, except community colleges, colleges, and universities, to conduct at least four fire drills, two tornado drills (one in September and one in March), and three crisis drills each school year.

The bill would require the three crisis drills to be conducted at some time during school hours, aside from the regular dismissal at the close of the day's session. (*Note:* Continuing law requires fire and tornado drills to be conducted at some time during school hours, aside from the regular dismissal at the close of the day's session.) The bill would state the manner in which such crisis drills are conducted may be subject to approval by the Safe and Secure Schools Unit of the Kansas Department of Education.

The bill would authorize the State Fire Marshal to grant an exemption pursuant to KSA 31-136 authorizing a variance for the number or manner of fire drills, tornado drills, and crisis drills for students receiving special education or related services.

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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>

## **Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Education. In the Senate Committee hearing, Senator Pettey, the State Fire Marshal, and a representative of the Kansas School Superintendents' Association and the United School Administrators of Kansas provided proponent testimony. The proponents generally stated 2018 House Sub. for SB 109 required schools to conduct 16 emergency preparedness drills during the 2018-2019 school year, including 4 fire drills, 3 tornado drills, and 9 crisis drills. The proponents stated the bill would provide a more balanced approach to emergency preparedness drills. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of Poole Fire Protection, Inc., and the Safety and Environmental Services of Wichita Public Schools.

No opponent or neutral testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to require one tornado drill to be conducted in March instead of in April. (*Note:* The change from April to March for one tornado drill was requested by the State Fire Marshal during the Senate Committee hearing.) The Senate Committee amendment also included a technical change.

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to authorize the State Fire Marshal to grant an exemption authorizing a variance for the number or manner of drills for students receiving special education or related services.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Office of the State Fire Marshal indicated the bill would have no fiscal effect on the agency. In addition, the bill would have no effect on state aid to school districts. Although the bill would change school procedures for the number of fire, tornado, and crisis drills required, any fiscal effect on the schools would be negligible.