

SESSION OF 2020

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 271**

As Amended by Senate Committee on  
Education

**Brief\***

SB 271, as amended, would extend the sunset on the high-density at-risk weighting in the school finance formula to July 1, 2023. The weighting is currently scheduled to expire on July 1, 2020.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means at the request of Senator Hensley.

In the Senate Committee on Education hearing on the bill, proponent testimony was provided by representatives of Education First Shawnee Mission, Kansas Association of School Boards, Kansas National Education Association, Kansas PTA, Schools for Quality Education, Unified School District (USD) 259 (Wichita), USD 409 (Atchison), USD 436 (Caney Valley), USD 446 (Independence), USD 497 (Lawrence), USD 512 (Shawnee Mission), and United School Administrators of Kansas. Proponents favored the repeal of the sunset on the high-density at-risk weighting. Proponent school districts described how moneys from the weighting are used to provide at-risk services to students identified as at-risk and the outcomes from those services. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of Game On for Kansas Schools, Schools for Fair Funding, the State Board of Education, USD 447 (Cherryvale), USD 470 (Arkansas City), USD 483 (Kismet-Plains), USD 487

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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>

(Herington), USD 495 (Fort Larned), and USD 500 (Kansas City).

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Policy Institute. The representative stated Kansas has consistently low performance on state assessments and the National Assessment of Educational Progress and favored additional accountability measures for at-risk funding.

No opponent testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to extend the sunset on the high-density at-risk weighting to July 1, 2023. As introduced, the bill would have repealed the sunset in its entirety.

According to the fiscal noted prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill as introduced, the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) indicates the high-density at-risk weighting will generate approximately \$54.0 million in funding for eligible school districts in FY 2020. The KSDE states school districts would no longer be eligible for this funding without enactment of the bill or an extension of the weighting through some other means. The Division of the Budget notes that in *The FY 2021 Governor's Budget Report* recommendations, the Governor has included an appropriations proviso to extend the high-density at-risk weighting through FY 2022.

Funding for the high-density at-risk weighting is included in the Fall 2019 Education Consensus Estimates.