

# Selected Senate & House Education Summaries

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2009 Legislative Session



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Compiled by:  
School Finance Section  
Division of Fiscal & Administrative Services

Kansas State Department of Education  
120 S.E. 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612-1182



# Kansas State Board of Education

120 S.E. 10th Avenue • Topeka, Kansas 66612-1182

## Education Priorities of the Kansas State Board of Education

- Ensure that all students meet or exceed high academic standards and are prepared for their next steps (e.g., the world of work and/or post secondary education) by:
  - redesigning the delivery system to meet our students' changing needs;
  - providing an effective educator in every classroom;
  - ensuring a visionary and effective leader in every school; and
  - improving communication with all constituent groups and policy partners.

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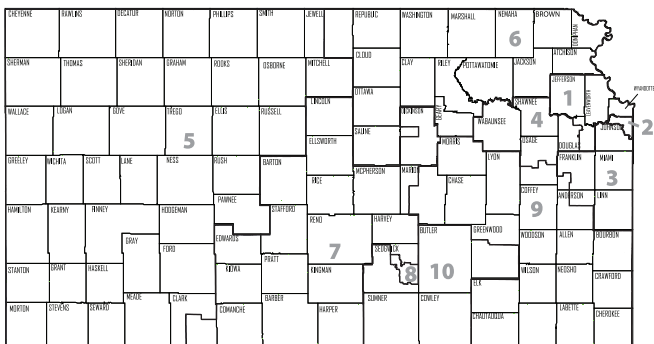


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Kansas State Board of Education  
Adopted 9/2007



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#### An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, 120 SE 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66612 (785) 296-3201

This booklet, Selected Senate & House Education Summaries – 2009 Legislative Session, is published annually to provide enrolled copies and summaries of selected education bills passed by the Kansas Legislature relating generally to Unified School Districts, Interlocal operatives, and private school.

The summaries of the bills were prepared by the Kansas Legislative Research Department in cooperation with the Kansas Department of Education.

The bills chosen include important legislative information related to education. The enrolled bills may be found and printed from <http://www.kslegislature.org>, choose Bills in the upper left-hand corner then choose Enrolled Bills Signed by the Governor. You can view the bill by choosing either Senate or House and choosing the bill by number.

Dale M. Dennis, Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Fiscal & Administrative Services  
June, 2009

KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S APPROVED BUDGET  
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2009 AND 2010

House Substitute for Substitute for SENATE BILL No. 23,  
Senate Substitute for HOUSE BILL No. 2354 and  
Senate Substitute for HOUSE BILL No. 2373

Program	Actual FY 2008	Approved FY 2009	Approved FY 2010
General State Aid	\$2,088,626,758	\$2,179,833,000	\$2,089,822,933
Supplemental General State Aid	307,860,631	324,146,000	339,212,000
School District Finance Fund	29,487,373	25,000,000	25,000,000
Capital Improvement Fund	69,127,760	75,379,000	80,000,000
Capital Outlay State Aid	23,086,626	22,600,000	0
Juvenile Detention Facilities	6,847,434	7,706,161	7,706,161
Declining Enrollment State Aid	3,384	50,000	0
Special Education Services	403,273,815	427,753,137	423,288,630
Mentor Teacher Program	1,383,421	1,650,000	1,450,000
Professional Development	1,748,323	1,750,000	0
School Food Service Match	2,510,486	2,510,486	2,510,486
Educable Deaf/Blind Program	110,000	110,000	110,000
Ag in the Classroom	35,000	35,000	35,000
Discretionary Grants	822,017	905,000	820,000
Parent Education	7,566,769	7,567,000	7,567,000
Pre-K Pilot	0	5,000,000	5,000,000
KPERS – Schools	220,812,560	242,268,741	260,081,896
National Board Certification	256,300	285,000	55,525
Vision Study Grant	300,000	100,000	0
School Safety Hotline	10,000	10,000	10,000
Kansas Career Pipeline	212,500	199,315	91,965
Agency Operating Expenditures	11,191,823	11,473,073	10,999,187
Total	\$3,175,272,980	\$3,336,330,913	\$3,253,760,783

Notes: The FY 2010 amounts for General State Aid, Capital Outlay State Aid, KPERS-Schools and the Kansas Career Pipeline reflect legislative intent. A Governor's Executive Directive is anticipated to confirm these appropriations. General State Aid includes \$138.7 million and Special Education Services includes \$55.7 million in federal ARRA funds.

## Appropriations 2009 Recision Bill

**House Sub. for Senate Sub. for SB 23.** House Sub. for Senate Sub. for SB 23 (the FY 2009 recision bill) includes total expenditures of \$13.49 billion, including \$6.28 billion from the State General Fund. The approved budget for FY 2009 is a reduction of \$110.0 million, or 0.8 percent, all funds and \$68.2 million, or 1.1 percent, State General Fund below the Governor's FY 2009 recommendation. Expenditure adjustments include:

- Reducing Base State Aid Per Pupil for local school districts by \$7.0 million resulting in an \$11 per pupil reduction (in total, the per pupil reduction is \$33);
- Reducing most state agencies by an additional 1.25 percent across-the-board reduction, or \$27.7 million, bringing the reduction for most agencies to 4.25 percent; and
- Adding \$2.0 million for the Home and Community Based Services waiver for the physically disabled, bringing the total increase to \$10.4 million.

The bill includes State General Fund revenue enhancements totaling \$31.4 million which include:

- Adding \$37.2 million by transferring funds from the Keeping Education Promises Trust (KEPT) Fund a year early;
- Adding \$26.0 million by accelerating the Governor's FY 2009 recommended moratorium on the employers' contribution for KPERS Death and Disability and state employee health insurance premiums from FY 2010;
- Deleting \$27.9 million by not sweeping various special revenue funds;
- Transferring \$6.7 million to the Special City County Highway Fund to correct three years of errors in the distribution to counties from the Highway Equalization Fund; and
- Deleting \$2.9 million for a 6.5 percent reduction to the Business Machinery and Equipment Tax Reduction Assistance Fund ("slider"), but make 50.0 percent of the remaining pay on March 2 and the other 50.0 percent on June 1.

House Sub. for Sub. for SB 23 adjustments total \$99.6 million, for an FY 2010 ending balance of \$158.0 million, or 2.5 percent of expenditures.

## **Issuance of Bonds**

**SB 35** makes substantive revisions and technical corrections regarding bonds issued by local units of government.

### ***Interest Rates on Bonds Issued by Local Governments***

The bill increases temporarily the cap on interest rates that is placed upon bonds issued by municipalities and other local taxing subdivisions of the state. The statute otherwise prohibits the interest rate on bonds issued by a municipality or a local taxing subdivision from exceeding the daily yield for ten-year treasury bonds, plus 3.0 percent if the interest is not taxable or 4.0 percent if it is taxable. The bill increases the caps from the Act's publication date in the *Kansas Register* until June 30, 2010, to be the daily yield for ten-year treasury bonds, plus:

- 5.0 percent if the interest is not taxable; or
- 6.0 percent if the interest is taxable.

### ***STAR Bond Clarifications***

The bill makes technical corrections and clarifications regarding the usage of Sales Tax and Revenue (STAR) bonds. Since STAR bonds utilize funding from sales tax instead of property taxes, the bill also repeals the requirement that the county appraiser annually certify the increase in assessed value of real and personal property in the STAR bond district to the county clerk. The bill clarifies that the Secretary of Commerce is to set a limit on the total amount of bonds issued by a city or county when the funding comes from the incremental revenue received from any state sales tax. Previously, the law referred to the setting of such a limit only when a county pledged 100.0 percent of the incremental revenue from a county sales tax.

## **Expanded Investment Authority**

**SB 39** amends a statute governing the investment of public moneys by certain counties and municipalities to allow school districts the same expanded investment authority currently allowed for cities and counties. Expanded investment authority would allow investments in United States government and agency securities, interest-bearing time deposits, and repurchase agreements with maximum maturities of four years.

The bill further provides that, in approving the investment policy of any city, county or school district, the Pooled Money Investment Board (PMIB) must require that the policy addresses liquidity, diversification, safety of principal, yield, maturity, and quality and capability of investment management staff. In addition, the bill provides procedures for compliance with KSA 12-1675(c) (a requirement that municipalities must first offer their idle funds to local financial institutions) and a certification from the investment management staff that those procedures have been followed.

The bill also creates a second condition for the approval of the investment policy for the PMIB. The investment policy is required to contain a certification from the investment management staff that those procedures (compliance with KSA 12-1675(c) as outlined above) have been followed, and a listing of the banks, savings and loan associations, and savings banks from which the city, county, or school district requested bids in the preceding year.

Without the expanded investment authority, cities and counties are permitted to invest only in temporary notes or no-fund warrants, time deposits, open accounts, certificates of deposit (CDs), repurchase agreements, and U.S. Treasury bills or notes with maximum maturities of two years. Expanded investment authority currently is allowed only if the municipality or county has a written investment policy that is approved annually by the PMIB.

## **Repeal Outdated Statute**

**SB 40** repeals KSA 2008 Supp. 72-9910 and 72-9911 which established the At-Risk Education Council which fulfilled its statutory duty in October of 2006.



## EDUCATION

### **School District Consolidation and Disorganization; Personal Financial Literacy; and Disability History and Awareness**

**SB 41** amends state law dealing with school district consolidation and disorganization. In situations where a school district disorganizes and the territory of the disorganized district is attached to more than one district, the state financial aid of the disorganized district is allocated to the districts to which the territory of the former district is attached. The state financial aid is allocated on the same proportional basis that the assessed valuation of the territory attached to each district bears to the assessed valuation of the entire disorganized district.

The bill requires the State Board of Education to designate a period of time each school year as a time for disability history and awareness. The State Board will develop objectives and guidelines for disability history and awareness, for all grade levels, within existing curriculum. The bill lists a variety of goals of disability history and awareness instruction, including encouraging better treatment of individuals with disabilities. The bill requires each school district to include disability history and awareness with the district's curriculum, as deemed appropriate by the district. The bill also encourages postsecondary educational institutions to conduct and promote activities that provide education, understanding and awareness of individuals with disabilities, disability history, and the disability rights movement.

The bill requires the State Board of Education to develop state curriculum standards for personal financial literacy for all grade levels within the existing mathematics or other appropriate subject matter curriculum. The bill also requires the State Board to encourage school districts, when selecting textbooks for mathematics, economics, family and consumer science, accounting, or other appropriate courses, to select textbooks containing substantive provisions on personal finance. In addition, the bill requires the State Board of Education to include questions relating to personal financial literacy in the statewide assessments for mathematics or social studies when the statewide assessments for mathematics or social studies are reviewed or rewritten. The State Board is required to examine the questions relating to personal financial literacy and rewrite such questions in order to determine if programs on personal financial literacy are equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed to become self-supporting and to enable students to make critical decisions regarding personal finances.

The bill also repeals several statutes which authorized several school district transfers and fund transfers between 1965 and 1980.

## School Districts and the Cash Basis Law and Local Option Budgets

**SB 84** amends the current cash-basis law to create an exception for school districts when expenditures exceed current revenues due to the late payment of general or supplemental general state aid. The bill allows the state to make the balance of its fiscal year 2008-2009 state aid payments to a school district after June 30 without the school districts violating current cash-basis law. Under current law, school districts would be out of compliance with the state's cash-basis law, requiring financial reports to note the violation. The provision does not identify a school year in which it would sunset, allowing it to be on-going.

The bill also provides an alternative formula for the calculation of the local option budget of a school district. The bill authorizes a school district to calculate its local option budget using a base state aid per pupil (BSAPP) of \$4,433 (the amount of BSAPP for the current school year) in any school year in which the BSAPP is less than that amount. The bill also authorizes a school district to calculate its local option budget using an amount equal to the amount appropriated for state aid for special education and related services in school year 2008-2009. (A school district may enact a local option budget up to a maximum of 31 percent of the district's state financial aid, which includes the BSAPP multiplied by a district's adjusted enrollment, and state aid for special education.) This provision expires on June 30, 2012.

## **Kansas Open Meetings Act**

**SB 135** makes a technical amendment to the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA). The bill substitutes the phrase “interactive communications” in a series for “meetings in a series” to clarify that serial meetings, except for legislative meetings as provided by Section 22 of Article 2 of the Constitution of Kansas, are required to be open under KOMA.

## **Recreation Commission Petty Cash Fund and School District Contingency Reserve Fund**

**SB 161** amends current law to permit recreation commissions to establish petty cash funds. The amount of money in a petty cash fund would not exceed \$1,000 at any one time.

The bill also limits to 10.0 percent the balance maintained in a school district's contingency reserve fund until school year 2012-2013, when the amount returns to current law, which requires that the amount in a district's contingency reserve fund cannot exceed 6.0 percent of a district's general fund. However, the provisions of SB 161 will not be imposed on any school district whose state financial aid is computed under current law (KSA 72-6445a) related to districts formed by consolidation or disorganization or districts with decreasing enrollments. Any such district may maintain the excess amount in the contingency fund until the amount in the fund is depleted.

## STATE FINANCES

### Salary and Wage Priority

**House Sub. for SB 168** requires that all funds budgeted for salaries, wages, compensation, and employer's benefit contributions for full-time equivalent positions shall be spent on those specific expenditures and requires that agencies give priority to payment of employee salaries over all other expenditures when a state agency processes payments through the State Treasury.

## **Community Foundations**

**SB 175** allows local boards of education to transfer funds to a community foundation. Funds are required to be deposited into a restricted fund and remain subject to any restrictions imposed by the original donor. Monies distributed from the fund are required to be made for the benefit of the school district or for a specific purpose as directed by the original donor.

## **Property Tax Exemption—Certain Leased Vehicles**

**SB 228** provides a property tax exemption beginning in tax year 2010 for certain vehicles leased for at least one year which would otherwise be property tax exempt if being actually and regularly used for literary, educational, scientific, religious, benevolent, or charitable purposes; or would otherwise be exempt by virtue of being used exclusively by the state or a political subdivision.

## **Schools for the Deaf and Blind**

**SB 290** amends the professional contract negotiations law to include the Kansas State School for the Blind and the Kansas School for the Deaf. The professional contract negotiations law governs how school boards in local districts negotiate contracts with teachers.



## **Atchison School District and the former Atchison Juvenile Correctional Facility**

**HB 2001** allows a student in the custody of the Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services or the Commissioner of the Juvenile Justice Authority and who is enrolled in the Atchison School District (USD 409) to be counted as two pupils. The affected students must be housed and receiving educational services at the youth residential center located on the grounds of the former Atchison Juvenile Correctional Facility for the district to qualify at the higher rate.

In school year 2009-2010, the bill authorizes a student enrollment of two times the licensed capacity of the youth residential center; for school years thereafter, student enrollment would be two times the actual number of students at the center.

## **Second Count Date for Military Students**

**HB 2002** allows a school district to recompute its general fund budget based on a second count of military students on February 20. To be eligible for a second count, a school district is required to have at least 25 military pupils or military students equal to one percent or more of the district's enrollment on February 20 who were not enrolled on September 20. Districts eligible for the second count then add the number of additional military students enrolled on February 20 to the September 20 student count to determine a district's general fund budget.

## Technical Education Statute Update

**HB 2003** makes a variety of technical amendments to statutes governing postsecondary technical education. Specifically, the bill codifies provisions that have been included in appropriations bills *provisos* regarding development of a funding model for postsecondary technical education, update references to federal law, and replace outdated or unnecessary terminology.

## **Epinephrine Administration in Schools**

**Sub. for HB 2008** authorizes any person to administer epinephrine in an emergency situation to a student or a member of a school staff when (1) the person administering the epinephrine reasonably believes that the student or staff member is exhibiting the signs and symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction; (2) a physician has authorized, in writing, the school to maintain a stock supply of epinephrine; and (3) the epinephrine is administered at school, on school property, or at a school-sponsored event. The bill exempts from liability for civil damages and exempts from the practice of the healing arts any person who gratuitously and in good faith renders emergency care or treatment through the administration of epinephrine to a student or a member of a school staff at school, on school property, or at a school-sponsored event if the person acts as an ordinary and reasonably prudent person would have acted under the same or similar circumstances.

In addition, the bill authorizes any accredited school to maintain an epinephrine kit, if the school chooses to do so. An epinephrine kit may consist of one or more doses of epinephrine. Epinephrine from an epinephrine kit shall be used only in emergency situations when the person administering the epinephrine reasonably believes that the signs and symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction are occurring and if administered at school, on school property, or at a school-sponsored event. A school would not maintain an epinephrine kit unless the school has consulted with a pharmacist licensed by the State Board of Pharmacy. The consultant pharmacist has supervisory responsibility of maintaining the epinephrine kit and responsibility for developing procedures, proper control and accountability for the epinephrine kit. The bill further states that the State Board of Pharmacy may adopt any rules and regulations as necessary regarding the maintenance of epinephrine kits.

## RETIREMENT

### KPERS 2009 Omnibus Bill

**Senate Sub. for HB 2072** amends certain statutes for the Kansas Police and Firemen's (KP&F) Retirement System and the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS). Amendments, with fiscal impacts noted, are summarized below.

***Waiting Period After Retirement for KPERS Retirees.*** The bill increases the break-in-service requirement from 30 to 60 days after retirement for all new KPERS retirees before they can return to work for any KPERS participating employer, and includes all members of the KPERS plan, including state, school and local employees. This amendment does not affect members of the Retirement System for Judges or the KP&F Retirement System.

***Change in KP&F Earnings Limitation.*** The bill removes the current statutory earnings limitation of \$10,000 for members of the KP&F Retirement System who are assigned to Tier II and qualify for disability benefits, but who are able to work part-time at a non-public safety job while drawing KP&F disability payments. The fiscal note indicates that KPERS will pay an estimated \$300,000 in additional disability benefits each fiscal year when the cap is removed.

***Computation of Employer Contributions.*** The bill requires the KPERS employer contribution rate for both the state group and the school group to be equal to the statutory rate in FY 2010 and subsequent fiscal years. Any additional contributions for the state group in excess of those required by the actuarial rate that are a result of using the statutory rate and that are remitted to KPERS will be credited to the school group. The fiscal note indicates that State General Fund savings of approximately \$2.6 million will result in FY 2010 from this change recommended in the Governor's FY 2010 Budget Report and approved by the Legislature.

***Working after Retirement for Contractors.*** The bill clarifies that statutory provisions pertaining to retirees of KPERS who return to work after retirement as contracted employees will be subjected after April 1, 2009, to the same state policies as other KPERS retirees who return to work as individuals. The bill requires the third-party companies to provide information about the salaries of its contract employees in order for KPERS and participating employers to apply current statutory provisions regarding salary caps and special additional employer contributions.

***Three-Year Salary Cap Exemption for School Professionals.*** The bill eliminates for three years beginning July 1, 2009, the statutory \$20,000 earnings limitation for licensed public school employees (teachers and administrators) of the KPERS school group who

return to work for the same KPERS participating employer from which they retired and who choose a normal retirement option (including the 85-point plan). The bill requires special payments from all public school employers who employ such licensed KPERS school group retirees and the payments will be based on a contribution rate equal to the employer actuarial rate plus an additional 8.00 percent. For FY 2010, this rate is 20.07 percent. The provision will sunset on July 1, 2012. After this date, a report about this three-year program from KPERS and its actuary is required to be submitted to the Joint Committee on Pensions, Investments and Benefits. Any fiscal impact is determined and reported at that time to the Joint Committee.

***Substitute Teachers Not Affected.*** The bill clarifies that substitute teachers are not addressed by the changes in law.

***Service Credit Purchases.*** The bill allows the purchase of KPERS participating service credit for journeyman experience that is necessary to obtain certain technical or vocational teacher certifications.

## KANSAS OPEN RECORDS ACT

### Open Records Amendment

**Senate Sub. for HB 2099** amends the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) to add to an existing exception the provision that a public agency would not be required to disclose the name, address, or other contact information of an alleged victim of stalking, domestic violence, or sexual assault.

## **Graduated Driver's License—Increasing Requirements for Drivers Younger Than 17**

**Sub. for HB 2143** modifies the requirements for driving permits and drivers' licenses for drivers younger than 17 years old, for those who first get a driver's permit or license after January 1, 2010. The changes from current law are explained below.

**Instruction permit.** The minimum age for application will continue to be 14. The bill requires the adult who has a valid driver's license and is accompanying the holder of an instruction permit to be at least 21 years old. (Current law does not list a specific age for the adult.) The bill adds that an instruction permit can be suspended or revoked like any other driver's license.

**Farm permit.** A farm permit will be available from age 14 until age 17 (changed from age 16). The bill will continue to allow farm permit holders to drive in connection with any farm work and to drive to and from school. The bill allows permit holders who are 16 or older also to drive at any time from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. and while going to or from authorized school activities.

**Restricted license.** Under the bill, an applicant for a restricted license must have held an instruction for at least one year instead of the current six months. If the applicant is younger than 16, the applicant must have completed driver's education. The bill requires a 16-year-old applicant to have completed at least 50 hours of adult-supervised driving, with 10 of those hours at night; a 15-year-old applicant will continue to be subject to a requirement of 25 hours of adult-supervised driving. The bill allows licensees who are 16 or older also to drive at any time from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. and while going to and from authorized school activities.

**Restrictions on nonsibling passengers.** The bill continues to ban nonsibling minor passengers if the holder of the restricted license or farm permit is younger than 16. It allows the holder of a farm permit or a restricted license who is at least 16 years old to have one passenger younger than 18 who is not a member of the permit holder's or licensee's immediate family.

**Restrictions on use of wireless devices.** The bill bans those with instruction permits, farm permits, and restricted licenses from operating wireless communication devices while driving except to report illegal activity or to summon emergency help. The bill defines "wireless communication device" as "any wireless electronic communication device that provides for voice or data communication between two or more parties."

**Lifting of restrictions possible at age 16 1/2.** The bill lifts restrictions, such as limits on nonsibling passengers and time of day when driving would be allowed, on holders of farm permits and restricted licenses who are at least 16 years old and who have not



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violated any of the restrictions for at least six months. However, penalties for those who violate terms of a permit or restricted license can be imposed.

**Full licensure at 17.** Under the bill, a first-time applicant for a full license must be at least 17 years old; current law allows full licensure at 16. The applicant for a full license who is younger than 18 must have completed at least 50 hours of supervised driving, with 10 of those hours at night, as in current law.

**Penalties.** The bill makes several changes to penalties for violations of driving restrictions:

- The bill requires—rather than allows as in current law—suspension of a farm permit or restricted license for any violation of restrictions or if the holder has two or more accidents chargeable to the holder.
- Under the terms of the bill, a suspended restricted license or farm permit can not be reinstated for one year if two or more accidents are charged to the holder. Current law stipulates a suspended license cannot be reinstated for one year or until the license holder reaches 16, whichever is longer.
- Under current law, the holder who is younger than 16 and convicted of two moving violations committed on separate occasions is not eligible to receive an unrestricted license until age 17. The bill adds that if the holder of a farm permit or restricted license is 16 and is convicted of two or more moving violations committed on separate occasions, the holder may not receive a driver's license that is not restricted until age 18.
- The bill adds required suspensions of driving privileges for those guilty of violating permit or license restrictions: 30 days for a first conviction, 90 days for a second conviction, and one year for a third or subsequent conviction.

**Effective date.** The bill will become effective January 1, 2010.

**Continuation of current requirements.** The bill applies the conditions, limitations, and restrictions in place as of December 31, 2009, to those who hold any valid driving license or permit as of January 1, 2010.

## **Reciprocal Deposits of Public Moneys**

**HB 2185** amends laws governing the reciprocal deposits of invested local and state funds. Specifically, the bill amends a provision in the banking code governing the deposit of public moneys, a provision in the law governing the idle investments of counties, cities, school districts, and other entities specified, and a law governing the deposit of state moneys by the director of investments (the Pooled Money Investment Board) to provide that public moneys or funds deposited through a selected bank, savings and loan association or savings bank which participates in a reciprocal deposit program would not be treated as securities and would not need to be secured. Such participating bank would receive reciprocal deposits from other participating institutions located in the U.S. in an amount equal to the amount of funds deposited by the municipal corporation or quasi-municipal corporation and the total cumulative amount of each deposit could not exceed the maximum deposit insurance amount for one depositor at one financial institution, as determined by the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation).

The law governing the deposit of public moneys at the investment rate (established in KSA 12-1675a) or a rate exceeding the investment rate is amended by the bill to specify that, if no local financial institution qualifies for deposit for the local unit (unable to make a deposit at a rate equal to or greater than the investment rate), the unit may select one or more eligible banks, savings and loan associations, and savings banks which have offices in all or a part of the investing unit's county (or counties) which will make the deposit at or greater than the investment rate. Under the existing law, the investing governmental unit must select one or more of the eligible institutions in its representative county or counties.

Additionally, the reciprocal deposits, the bill provides, are not to be treated as securities and would not need to be secured as provided in this act or any other act, except when the deposits are secured as provided in KSA 75-4218, when they are held by a designated financial institution prior to placement with reciprocal institutions or upon maturity.

## COMMERCE AND LABOR

### Unemployment Insurance Compensation

**HB 2374** draws down an additional \$69.0 million dollars in American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds for the Kansas Employment Security Trust Fund through the modification of three provisions of Kansas Unemployment Insurance Compensation law.

The first modification will allow unemployment insurance compensation applicants to use an alternative wage base period when calculating benefits. Under current law, claimants must use the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters, ignoring the last completed quarter or lag quarter, in determining benefits. The modified provision will allow claimants to use the last four completed quarters including the most recent quarter, eliminating the lag quarter provision. Claimants can calculate benefits using either methodology and choose the option which provides the greater benefit. The original wage base period calculation was a holdover from when unemployment compensation applications were processed by hand; modern techniques eliminate the need for delays and lag quarters according to the Department of Labor. This modification allows the State to access the first \$23.0 million in ARRA funding for the Trust Fund.

The second modification codifies the practice of allowing traditional part-time workers to claim part-time unemployment insurance compensation benefits, assuming they would be otherwise qualified to receive benefits. The modification has no fiscal impact but moves current Department of Labor practice into statute.

The third modification provides an additional 26 weeks of unemployment insurance coverage for persons who are otherwise qualified to receive unemployment compensation and are enrolled in a state-approved training program, a shared work program, or a job training program authorized under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The job training programs will be managed by the Department of Commerce. Kansas currently provides a maximum of 26 weeks of coverage for individuals enrolled in approved training programs.

The second and third modifications qualify Kansas to access an additional \$46.0 million dollars in ARRA funding for the Kansas Employment Security Trust Fund. The Department of Labor projects that the alternative wage base period and expanded coverage for workforce training provisions will exhaust the additional funding by 2023.

## Dyslexia

**HCR 5015** directs the State Board of Education to take certain actions in relation to children with reading problems, including dyslexia. The resolution directs the State Board to do the following:

- Endeavor to ensure that early screening or testing would identify children with a reading disability, including dyslexia;
- Endeavor to review partnerships with early childhood educators so that reading diagnostic assessments would be used in pre-kindergarten through second grade;
- Endeavor to review the level and pace of implementation of best practices of instruction including, but not limited to, the multi-tier system of support;
- Endeavor to review teacher preparation courses to ensure knowledge of best practices of instruction including, but not limited to, the multi-tier system of support and scientifically-based reading instructional components used to instruct children with disabilities including dyslexia, is addressed;
- Endeavor to ensure that parents have easy access to information, including contact information for school district, school, and Department of Education officials; and
- Submit a report of the activities of the State Board in relation to this resolution to the Legislature on or before December 31, 2009.