

SESSION OF 2009

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5015**

As Recommended by House Committee on  
Education

**Brief\***

HCR 5015 would direct the State Board of Education to take certain actions in relation to children with reading problems, including dyslexia. The resolution would direct 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 that knowledge of best practices of instruction, including but not limited to, the multi-tier system of support and scientifically-based reading instructional components are used to instruct children with disabilities and dyslexia;
- Endeavor to ensure that parents have easy access to information, including contact information for school district, school, and Department of Education officials; and

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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>

- Submit a report of the activities of the State Board in relation to this resolution to the Legislature on or before December 31, 2009.

## **Background**

The concurrent resolution was originally introduced as HB 2199 which would have required establishment of an early literacy program for Kansas schools. Under HB 2199, students enrolled in kindergarten through grade two would be screened for reading disorders, including dyslexia, in accordance with a program approved by the State Board of Education. A diagnosis of dyslexia by a child psychologist or a medical doctor would have been required to be accepted by a school district.

Testifying as proponents for the original bill (HB 2199) were representatives of the Wichita School District, Kansas Dyslexia Coalition, Children's Mercy Hospital and Clinics, the Fundamental Learning Center, and parents of children's with dyslexia. Opposing the bill were representatives of the West Elk and Derby School Districts and the Kansas Association of School Boards. Presenting neutral testimony was a representative of the Kansas National Education Association.

The House Committee on Education established a subcommittee to review HB 2199 and make recommendation for action. The subcommittee recommended and the Committee agreed to introduce HCR 5015.

The Division of Budget fiscal note for the original bill (HB 2199) indicated \$47,450 would be needed to carry out four meetings of an advisory group to assist in the development of reading instruments, training educators, and applying the results of the instruments. The advisory group also would have developed a list of approved reading instruments to be used by local school districts. In addition, the fiscal note indicated the Department of Education would require an additional half-time education consultant to implement HB 2199.