

February 12, 2007

The Honorable Clay Aurand, Chairperson  
House Committee on Education  
Statehouse, Room 143-N  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Aurand:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for HB 2369 by Representative Vickrey, et al.

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2369 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2369 would create the Autism Scholarship Program to provide students with autism the opportunity to attend a school in another school district or a private school that has agreed to participate in the program and agrees to comply with the program's requirements. Students must be between the ages of three and 21, have been diagnosed with autism in any of the categories, attending public school, have a current multi-factored evaluation, and have an individualized education plan written by the resident school district.

Under the program, any parent of a public school student with autism who is dissatisfied with the student's progress would qualify for a state scholarship for the child to enroll in and attend a different school, under the following conditions: (1) the child has had an individual education plan; (2) the student has been accepted for admission at a participating school; and (3) the parent has requested a scholarship from the state before the deadline established by the Department of Education.

The maximum scholarship granted would be an amount equivalent to the cost of the educational program that would have been provided for the student in the resident school district. Although the scholarship amount is a function of a student's individual education plan, the participating school is not required to abide by the individual education plan. The parent and participating school mutually would determine the best services and educational plan for the student. The scholarship would remain in force until the student returns to a public school, graduates from high school or reaches the age of 21, whichever comes first.

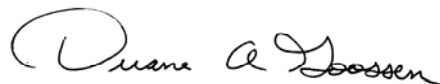
HB 2369 would require the Department of Education to adopt rules and procedures relating to the following: (1) eligibility and participation of nonpublic schools, including timelines to maximize student and public and nonpublic school participation; (2) calculation and distribution of scholarships to eligible students and participating schools; and (3) application and approval procedures for eligible students and participating schools. The bill specifies the grounds why the Department may bar a school from participation in the program and eligibility requirements for a nonpublic school to participate.

| Estimated State Fiscal Effect |                |                      |                |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
|                               | FY 2007<br>SGF | FY 2007<br>All Funds | FY 2008<br>SGF | FY 2008<br>All Funds |
| Revenue                       | --             | --                   | --             | --                   |
| Expenditure                   | --             | --                   | \$140,313      | \$140,313            |
| FTE Pos.                      | --             | --                   | --             | 0.50                 |

According to the Department of Education, enactment of HB 2369 would require one additional half-time Education Program Consultant to administer the responsibilities of the agency outlined above. Salary and benefits for the position would total \$31,558 and other operating expenses \$8,755. The total cost of \$40,313 would be from the State General Fund.

HB 2369 provides that the resident school district must provide transportation for an eligible student to and from the participating school in the same manner as the resident school district is required by law to provide transportation for other resident students to nonpublic schools. The resident school district would qualify for state transportation aid for each student transported. School districts would have some additional costs for transporting students, which is expected to total less than \$100,000 statewide. This bill does not clarify whether participating students would be counted in the enrollment of their resident school district. If they are not, then state aid provided for these students would be reduced, but would still be presumably required to finance the scholarships for attendance in other schools. Any fiscal effect resulting from enactment of HB 2369 would be in addition to amounts contained in *The FY 2008 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Duane A. Goossen  
Director of the Budget

cc: Dale Dennis, Education