

SESSION OF 2024

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 529**

As Amended by Senate Committee on Ways  
and Means

**Brief\***

SB 529, as amended, would create the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center District Act. The bill would allow the Board of County Commissioners of Douglas County (Commissioners) to submit the question of the creation of the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center District (District) to the voters of Douglas County at any primary, general, or special election.

***Board of Directors***

If approved by a majority of Douglas County voters, the bill would dissolve the existing Board of Directors for the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center (Center). It would also require the Commissioners to establish by resolution the first Board of Directors for the District (Board), composed of seven members; the criteria for serving on such board; and the terms of office for the first board.

***Board Requirements***

The bill would require the Board to annually:

- Elect a chairperson, secretary, and treasurer;
- Elect other officers deemed necessary by the Board;

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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>

- Fix the date and place of its regular meetings;
- Adopt bylaws as appropriate;
- File a bond with the Douglas County Clerk;
- Maintain accurate records of all money received and disbursed; and
- Prepare and publish an annual budget for the maintenance and support of the district.

### ***Obligations***

The bill would require all contracts previously entered into and all outstanding bonds, debts, and other obligations of the Center to be assumed by the District.

### ***Taxing Authority***

The bill would authorize the Board to levy a property tax not to exceed 0.50 mills for all taxable, tangible property in the District (Douglas County). The tax levy would not be considered a tax levy of Douglas County.

### ***District Powers***

The bill would authorize the District to:

- Enter into contracts;
- Sue and be sued;
- Acquire, hold, and convey real and personal property;
- Make and adopt rules and regulations for the administration of the District;

- Lease land and buildings;
- Acquire material and equipment necessary for maintenance or extension of the Center;
- Employ persons as the Board deems necessary;
- Make annual reports of receipts and disbursements to Douglas County;
- Receive, accept, and administer money received from the State, federal government, or private donors;
- Receive and accept donations; and
- Make annual reports to the Commissioners on or before January 31 of each year for the preceding calendar year, showing receipts and disbursements and showing statistical information relating to students served and programs offered.

### **Background**

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

### ***Senate Committee on Ways and Means***

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Senators Francisco and Kloos, as well as representatives of the Center and the Kansas Building Industry Association. The proponents generally stated the program has been successful, and the District would provide a stable income source for the Center if approved by Douglas County voters.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of Adecco; the City of Lawrence; the

Chamber of Lawrence, Kansas; Emprise Bank; Home Builders Association; LMH Health; and Petefish, Immel, Hird, Johnson, Leibold & Sloan, LLP.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the provisions of the bill to change the timing of the election in which to submit the question about the creation of the Center from "the next" election to "any" election.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Kansas Department of Revenue indicates the bill would affect only local property tax collections in Douglas County and would have no fiscal effect on state revenues. Based on Douglas County's 2023 taxable value, the property tax levy of 0.5 mills would generate approximately \$984,500. The Department of Revenue indicates that the administrative costs associated with implementing the provisions of the bill would be negligible and could be absorbed within existing resources.

The Secretary of State indicates the bill would have no fiscal effect on its operations. The local election authorized by the bill would be conducted and paid for by Douglas County.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates Douglas County would no longer be responsible for funding the Center from its own tax receipts and would allow current Center funding to be used for other purposes.

Local government; special district; Douglas County; Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center