Session of 2022

SENATE BILL No. 455

By Committee on Education

2-8

AN ACT concerning education; relating to school attendance; allowing students to transfer to and attend school in any school district in the state; requiring school districts to set transfer capacity and adopt certain transfer policies; establishing an appeals process if a transfer request is denied; amending K.S.A. 72-13,101, 72-3122, 72-3123, 72-3124 and 72-3125 and repealing the existing sections.

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. As used in K.S.A. 72-3122 through 72-3125, and amendments thereto, *and section 2, and amendments thereto*:

- (a) "Homeless child" means a child who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and whose primary nighttime residence is:
- (1) A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, including welfare hotels, congregate shelters and transitional housing for the mentally ill;
- (2) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
- (3) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for humans.
- (b) "Nonresident student" or "nonresident transfer student" means a student who is enrolled and in attendance at or seeking to enroll and attend a school located in a district where such student is not a resident.
- (c) "Parent" means and includes natural parents, adoptive parents, stepparents and foster parents.
 - (d) "Person acting as parent" means:
 - (1) A guardian or conservator; or
 - (2) a person, other than a parent, who:
 - (A) Is liable by law to maintain, care for or support the child;
- (B) has actual care and control of the child and is contributing the major portion of the cost of support of the child;
- (C) has actual care and control of the child with the written consent of a person who has legal custody of the child; or
- (D) has been granted custody of the child by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- 35 (e) "Receiving school district" means a school district of nonresidence of a student who attends school in such school district.

- (f) "School district" means a school district organized and operating under the laws of this state.
- (g) "Sending school district" means a school district of residence of a student who attends school in a school district not of the student's residence.
- (h) "Sibling" means a brother or sister of the whole or half blood, adoptive brother or sister, a stepbrother or stepsister or a foster brother or foster sister.
- New Sec. 2. (a) On or before January 1, 2023, each board of education of a school district shall adopt a policy to determine the number of nonresident students that the school district has the capacity to accept in each grade level for each school of the school district pursuant to K.S.A. 72-3123, and amendments thereto. Such policies shall clearly specify the reasons that the board may use to deny continued enrollment of a nonresident student who is not in good standing. Such reasons for a denial of continued enrollment may include, but shall not be limited to, the nonresident student's record of school absenteeism and repeated suspensions or expulsions.
- (b) The policy adopted pursuant to subsection (a) shall be published on the school district's website.
- Sec. 2. 3. K.S.A. 72-3122 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-3122. (a) Any child who has attained the age of eligibility for school attendance may attend school in the district—in which where the child lives, if:
- (1) The child lives with a resident of the district and the resident is the parent, or a person acting as parent, of the child; or
- (2) subject to the provisions of subsection (c), the child lives in the district as a result of placement therein by a district court or by the secretary for children and families; or
 - (3) the child is a homeless child.
- (b) Any child who has attained the age of eligibility for school attendance may attend school in a school district in which where the child is not a resident if the school district in which the child resides has entered into an agreement with such other school district in accordance with and under authority of K.S.A. 72-13,101, 72-3123 or 72-3125, and amendments thereto.
- (c) Any child who has attained the age of eligibility for school attendance and who lives at the Judge James V. Riddel boys ranch as a result of placement at such ranch by a district court or by the secretary for children and families shall be deemed a resident of unified school district No. 259, Sedgwick county, Kansas, and. Any such child may attend school, which shall be maintained for such child by the board of education of such school district as in the case of a child who is a bona fide resident

of the district.

- (d) As used in this section:
- (1) "Parent" means and includes natural parents, adoptive parents, stepparents, and foster parents;
- (2) "person acting as parent" means (A) a guardian or conservator, or (B) a person, other than a parent, who is liable by law to maintain, care for, or support the child, or who has actual care and control of the child and is contributing the major portion of the cost of support of the child, or who has actual care and control of the child with the written consent of a person who has legal custody of the child, or who has been granted custody of the child by a court of competent jurisdiction; and
- (3) "homeless child" means a child who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and whose primary nighttime residence is: (A) A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill); or (B) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or (C) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- Sec. 3. 4. K.S.A. 72-3123 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-3123. (a) (1) On and after July 1, 2022, Beginning in school year 2023-2024, any child of school age pursuant to K.S.A. 72-3118, and amendments thereto, may attend a school operated by a school district where such child does not reside if such school district has open seats as determined pursuant to this section.
- (b) The board of education of any school district is hereby authorized to permit pupils who are not residents of the school district shall permit nonresident students to enroll in and attend the schools of the district. The board of education may permit such pupils to attend school without charge or, subject to the provisions of subsection (b), may charge such pupils for attendance at school to offset, totally or in part, the costs of providing for such attendance. Amounts received under this subsection by the board of education of a school district for enrollment and attendance of pupils at school in regular educational programs shall be deposited in the general fund of the school district.
- (b) Pupils who are not residents of a school district and are attending the schools of the school district in accordance with the provisions of an agreement entered into under authority of K.S.A. 72-13,101, and amendments thereto, shall not be charged for attendance at school. The costs of providing for the attendance of such pupils at school shall be paid by the school district of residence of the pupils in accordance with the provisions of the agreement. at any time during the school year unless the number of transfers exceeds the capacity of a grade level for each school

 of a school district as determined pursuant to subsection (e).

- (2) The school district shall enroll transfer students in the order in which the school district received the nonresident student transfer applications. If the capacity of a grade level for each school of a school district is insufficient to enroll all nonresident students, the school district shall select nonresident students when capacity becomes available in the order in which the school district receives the nonresident student transfer applications.
- (3)— if such school district has open seats as determined pursuant to this section.
- (c) Each school district shall determine capacity in each school of the school district for the following school year as follows:
- (1) For kindergarten and grades one through eight, the classroom student-teacher ratio in each grade level; and
- (2) for grades nine through 12, the student-teacher ratio for each school building or program in each school building, including, but not limited to, advanced placement or international baccalaureate programs.
- (d) (1) (A) On or before May 1 of each year, each school board shall determine for each grade level in each school building of the school district for the next succeeding school year the:
 - (i) Capacity as determined pursuant to subsection (c);
- (ii) number of students expected to attend school in the school district; and
 - (iii) number of open seats available to nonresident students.
- (B) On or before June 1 of each year, each school district shall publish on such school district's website the number of open seats available to nonresident students in each grade level for each school building of the school district for the next succeeding school year.
- (C) From June 1 through June 30, each school district shall accept applications from nonresident students. Applications shall be on a form and in a manner determined by the school district.
- (D) If the number of applications for a grade level in a school building is less than the number of available seats for such grade level in such school building, the nonresident students shall be accepted for enrollment and attendance at such school district. If the number of applications for a grade level in a school building is greater than the number of available seats for such grade level in such school building, the school district shall randomly select nonresident students using a confidential lottery process. Such process shall be completed on or before July 15 of each year.
- (2) (A) On or before October 1 of each year, each school board shall determine for each grade level in each school building of the school district for the next succeeding semester the:

- (i) Capacity as determined in accordance with this section;
- (ii) number of students expected to attend school in the school district; and
 - (iii) number of open seats available to nonresident students.
- (B) On or before November 1 of each year, each school district shall publish on such school district's website the number of open seats available to nonresident students in each grade level for each school building of the school district for the next succeeding semester.
- (C) From November 1 through November 30, each school district shall accept applications from nonresident students. Applications shall be on a form and in a manner determined by the school district.
- (D) If the number of applications for a grade level in a school building is less than the number of available seats for such grade level in such school building, the nonresident students shall be accepted for enrollment and attendance at such school district. If the number of applications for a grade level in a school building is greater than the number of available seats for such grade level in such school building, the school district shall randomly select nonresident students using a confidential lottery process. Such process shall be completed on or before December 15 of each year.
- (3) The school district shall provide to the parent or person acting as parent of such student the reason for the denial and an explanation of the nonresident student selection process.
- (e) (1) Subject to capacity, school districts shall give priority to any sibling of a nonresident student who was accepted to enroll in and attend such school district. Priority shall be given when the nonresident student is first accepted and, if necessary, at any other time the school district considers transfer applications. Any such sibling shall not be subject to the open seat lottery.
- (2) Any child who is in the custody of the department for children and families and who is living in the home of a nonresident student who transfers may attend school in the receiving school district.
 - (f) A school district shall not:
- (1) Charge tuition or fees to any nonresident student who transfers to such school district pursuant to this section except fees that are otherwise charged to every student enrolled in and attending school in the district.
- (4) A school district may deny enrollment to a nonresident student in accordance with the policy adopted pursuant to subsection (e). A school-district shall not; or
- (2) accept or deny a nonresident student transfer based on ethnicity, national origin, gender, income level, disabling condition, proficiency in the English language, measure of achievement, aptitude or athletic ability.
 - (5) A nonresident student may be granted a one-year transfer and

1 may continue to attend the receiving school district each year with the
2 approval of the receiving school district. At the end of each school year, a
3 school district may deny continued enrollment of the nonresident student
4 in accordance with the policy adopted pursuant to subsection (e).
5 (b) (1)(g) A nonresident student who has been accepted for

- (b) (1)(g) A nonresident student who has been accepted for enrollment and attendance at a receiving school district shall be permitted to continue such enrollment and attendance in such school district until such student graduates from high school, unless such student is no longer in good standing. A receiving school district may deem a nonresident student as not in good standing in accordance with such school district's nonresident transfer policy.
- (h) A student may always enroll at any time in the school district where such student resides.
- (i) Except for a child in the custody of the department for children and families, a nonresident student shall not transfer more than two times per school year to one or more receiving school districts.
- (j) Any student who is the dependent child of a current member of the United States armed forces, as defined in K.S.A. 48-3601, and amendments thereto, shall be eligible for admission to the school district of such student's choice regardless of the capacity of the school district. To be eligible, such student shall have at least one parent who:
- (A)(1) Has been issued a federal department of defense identification card; and
- (B)(2) can provide evidence that such parent is or will be on active duty status or active duty orders. "Active duty orders" means official military orders to another location in support of combat, contingency operation or a natural disaster for more than 30 consecutive calendar days.
- (2) Any sibling of a nonresident student who transfers may attendschool in the receiving school district if such school district has thecapacity for such sibling and the school district has no reason for denialin accordance with the policy adopted pursuant to subsection (e).
- (3) Any child in the custody of the department for children and families who is living in the home of a nonresident student who transfers may attend school in the receiving school district.
- (c) A student may always enroll at any time in the school district-where such student resides. Except for a child in the custody of the-department for children and families, a nonresident student shall not-transfer more than two times per school year to one or more receiving-school districts.
- (d) The parent of a student seeking a transfer shall apply on an application form prescribed by the state board. The application shall be filed with the superintendent of the receiving school district. On or before

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the first day of January, April, July and October, the superintendent shall file with the state board of education a statement that includes the names of the nonresident students granted a transfer to the school district, the sending school district of such student and the grade level of such student. (e) On or before January 1, 2023, each board of education of a-

- school district shall adopt a policy to determine the number of nonresident students that the school district has the capacity to accept in each grade level for each school of the school district and the reasons for denial of any application of a nonresident student seeking to transfer to suchdistrict. The reasons for denial may include, but not be limited to, highrates of absenteeism and repeated suspensions or expulsions from school. Such policy shall be posted on the school district's website.
- (f) By each first day of January, April, July and October, the board of education of each school district shall determine the number of nonresident students the school district has the capacity to accept in each grade level for each school of the school district. After determining the number of nonresident students the district has the capacity to accept, the board of education shall publish such capacity number in a prominentplace on the school district's website and report such capacity number to the state department of education.
- (g) If a transfer request is denied by a school district, the parent of the nonresident student who was denied transfer may appeal the denial to the receiving school district board of education within 10 calendar days of notification of such denial. The receiving school district board of education shall consider the appeal at such board's next regularlyscheduled meeting. If the receiving school district board of educationdenies the appeal, such parent may appeal the denial to the state board of education within 10 calendar days of such denial. The parent shall submit to the state board and the superintendent of the receiving school district a notice of appeal on a form prescribed by the state board. The appeal shall be considered by the state board at such board's next regularly scheduled meeting in which the parent and a representative from the receiving school district may address the state board. The state board shall promulgaterules and regulations to establish an appeals process authorized by this section.
- $\frac{h}{h}(k)$ A receiving school district shall not be required to provide transportation to nonresident students. If space is available on school district transportation vehicles, a school district may provide nonresident students an in-district bus stop where transportation may be provided by such school district to and from such bus stop and the school for such nonresident students.
- (1) Each school district board of education shall submit to the state department of education the number of nonresident student transfers

 approved and denied by such board and whether the denials were based on capacity or in accordance with the policy adopted pursuant to subsection (e) section 2, and amendments thereto. The state department of education shall collect and report such data on such department's website and make such data available to the legislative division of post audit.

- (i)(m) (1) Each year, the—legislative division of post audit shall-randomly select 10% of the school districts in the state and conduct an audit of each selected school district's approved and denied nonresident student transfers. If the audit finds that a school district inaccurately-reported capacity levels, the department of education shall determine such capacity levels for such school district state department of education, as part of the department's enrollment audit, shall audit the nonresident student capacity and enrollment.
- (2) In calendar year 2026, the legislative post audit committee shall direct the legislative division of post audit to conduct an audit of nonresident student transfers pursuant to this section. Such audit shall be reported to the legislative post audit committee on or before January 15, 2027, and subsequently presented to the house standing committee on K-12 education budget and the senate standing committee on education, or any successor committees.
- (n) Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt any nonresident student who transfers to a receiving school district pursuant to this section from the policies and requirements of the activities association referred to in K.S.A. 72-7114, and amendments thereto.
- Sec. 4. 5. K.S.A. 72-3124 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-3124. (a) As used in this section:
- (1) "School district" means a school district organized and operating under the laws of this state and no part of which is located in Johnson eounty, Sedgwick county, Shawnee county or Wyandotte county.
- (2) "Non-resident pupil" or "pupil" means a pupil who is enrolled and in attendance at a school located in a district in which such pupil is not a resident and who: (A) Lives 2[†]/₂ or more miles from the attendance center the pupil would attend in the district in which the pupil resides and is not a resident of Johnson county, Sedgwick county, Shawnee county or Wyandotte county; or (B) is a member of the family of a pupil meeting the condition prescribed in subparagraph (A).
- (3) "Member of the family" means a brother or sister of the whole or half blood or by adoption, a stepbrother or stepsister, and a foster brother or foster sister.
- (b)—The board of education of any school district—may shall allow any pupil student who is not a resident of the district to enroll in and attend school in such district pursuant to K.S.A. 72-3123, and amendments

 thereto. The board of education of such district may furnish or provide transportation to any—non-resident pupil nonresident student who is enrolled in and attending school in the district—pursuant to this section. If the district agrees to furnish or provide transportation to a—non-resident pupil nonresident student, such transportation shall be furnished or provided until the end of the school year. Prior to providing or furnishing transportation to a—non-resident pupil nonresident student, the receiving school district shall notify the board of education of the sending school district—in which the pupil resides that transportation will be furnished or provided for such student.

- (e) Pupils attending school in a school district in which the pupil does not reside pursuant to this section
- (b) Nonresident students shall be counted as regularly enrolled in and attending school in the receiving school district—where the pupil is enrolled for the purpose of computations under the Kansas school equity and enhancement act, K.S.A. 72-5131 et seq., and amendments thereto, except computation of transportation weighting under such act, and for the purposes of the statutory provisions contained in article 64 of chapter 72 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto. Such—non-resident pupil nonresident student shall not be charged for the costs of attendance at school.
- Sec.-5. 6. K.S.A. 72-3125 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-3125. (a) As used in this section:
- (1) "Receiving school district" means a school district of nonresidence of a pupil who attends school in such school district.
- (2) "Sending school district" means a school district of residence of a pupil who attends school in a school district not of the pupil's residence.
- (b)—The board of education of any school district may make and enter into contracts with the board of education of any receiving school district located in this state for the purpose of providing for the attendance of pupils students at school in the receiving school district.
- (e)(b) The board of education of any school district may make and enter into contracts with the governing authority of any accredited school district located in another state for the purpose of providing for the attendance of pupils students from this state at school in such other state or for the attendance of pupils students from such other state at school in this state.
- (d)(c) PupilsStudents attending school in a receiving school district in accordance with a contract authorized by this section and made and entered into by such receiving school district with a sending school district located in this state shall be counted as regularly enrolled in and attending school in the sending school district for the purpose of computations under the Kansas school equity and enhancement act, K.S.A. 72-5131 et seq.,

1 and amendments thereto.

- $\frac{\text{(e)}(d)}{d}$ Any contract made and entered into under authority of this section is subject to the following conditions:
- (1) The contract shall be for the benefit of-pupils students who reside at inconvenient or unreasonable distances from the schools maintained by the sending school district or for-pupils students who, for any other reason deemed sufficient by the board of education of the sending school district, should attend school in a receiving school district;
- (2) the contract shall make provision for the payment of tuition by the sending school district to the receiving school district;
- (3) if a sending school district is located in this state and the receiving school district is located in another state, the amount of tuition provided to be paid for the attendance of a-pupil student or-pupils students at school in the receiving school district shall not exceed \(^{1}/_{2}\) of the amount of the budget per-pupil student of the sending school district under the Kansas school equity and enhancement act, K.S.A. 72-5131 et seq., and amendments thereto, for the current school year; and
- (4) the contract shall make provision for transportation of <u>pupils</u> students to and from the school attended on every school day.
- (f)(e) Amounts received pursuant to contracts made and entered into under authority of this section by a school district located in this state for enrollment and attendance of <u>pupils</u> students at school in regular educational programs shall be deposited in the general fund of the school district.
- $\frac{(g)}{(f)}$ The provisions of subsection— $\frac{(e)(3)}{(d)(3)}$ do not apply to unified school district No. 107, Rock Hills.
- (h)(g) The provisions of this section do not apply to contracts made and entered into under authority of the special education for exceptional children act.
- (i)(h) The provisions of this section are deemed to be alternative to the provisions of K.S.A. 72-13,101, and amendments thereto, and no procedure or authorization under K.S.A. 72-13,101, and amendments thereto, shall be limited by the provisions of this section.
- Sec. 6. 7. K.S.A. 72-13,101 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-13,101. (a) In accordance with the provisions of this section, the boards of education of any two or more unified school districts may make and enter into agreements providing for the attendance of pupils students residing in one school district at school in kindergarten or any of the grades one through 12 maintained by any such other school district. The boards of education may also provide by agreement for the combination of enrollments for kindergarten or one or more grades, courses or units of instruction.
 - (b) Prior to entering into any agreement under authority of this

section, the board of education shall adopt a resolution declaring that it has made a determination that such an agreement should be made and that the making and entering into of such an agreement would be in the best interests of the educational system of the school district. Any such agreement is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The agreement may be for any term not exceeding a term of five years.
- (2) The agreement shall be subject to change or termination by the legislature.
- (3) Within the limitations provided by law, the agreement may be changed or terminated by mutual agreement of the participating boards of education.
- (4) The agreement shall make provision for transportation of pupils students to and from the school attended on every school day, for payment or sharing of the costs and expenses of pupil student attendance at school, and for the authority and responsibility of the participating boards of education.
- (c) Provision by agreements entered into under authority of this section for the attendance of pupils students at school in a school district of nonresidence of such pupils students shall be deemed to be in compliance with the kindergarten, grade, course and units of instruction requirements of law.
- (d) The board of education of any school district—which that enters into an agreement under authority of this section for the attendance of pupils students at school in another school district may discontinue kindergarten or any or all of the grades, courses and units of instruction specified in the agreement for attendance of—pupils students enrolled in kindergarten or any such grades, courses and units of instruction at school in such other school district. Upon discontinuing kindergarten or any grade, course or unit of instruction under authority of this subsection, the board of education may close any school building or buildings operated or used for attendance by—pupils students enrolled in such discontinued kindergarten, grades, courses or units of instruction. The closing of any school building under authority of this subsection shall require a majority vote of the members of the board of education and shall require no other procedure or approval.
- (e) Pupils Students attending school in a school district of nonresidence of such—pupils students in accordance with an agreement made and entered into under authority of this section shall be counted as regularly enrolled in and attending school in the school district of residence of such pupils for the purpose of computations under the Kansas school equity and enhancement act, K.S.A. 72-5131 et seq., and amendments thereto.

- (f) PupilsStudents who satisfactorily complete grade 12 while in attendance at school in a school district of nonresidence of such—pupils students in accordance with the provisions of an agreement entered into under authority of this section shall be certified as having graduated from the school district of residence of such—pupils students unless otherwise provided for by the agreement.
- (g) Students who are not residents of a school district and are attending the schools of the school district in accordance with the provisions of an agreement entered into under the authority of this section shall not be charged for attendance at school. The costs of providing for the attendance of such students at school shall be paid by the school district of residence of the students in accordance with the provisions of the agreement.
- Sec.—7. **8.** K.S.A. 72-13,101, 72-3122, 72-3123, 72-3124 and 72-3125 are hereby repealed.
- Sec. 8. 9. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.