



KNEA to sue state over school finance bill

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TOPEKA, Kan. -

The Kansas National Education Association (KNEA) says it is planning a lawsuit against the State of Kansas on the recently passed school finance bill.

The bill, which was signed back in April, came in response to the Kansas Supreme Court ruling requiring the state to increase funding to poorer school districts.

The bill led to protests because lawmakers added some highly controversial features including an end to statewide due process rights for teachers, meaning districts no longer need to hold a hearing to justify firing a teacher, and allowing districts to hire unlicensed science and math teachers. The bill also gave corporations tax breaks for making donations to scholarships for private schools.

KNEA leaders told Pilar Pedraza the union will challenge the school finance bill passed this year under the Kansas Constitution, but won't say which parts of the bill are the problem.

Exhibit
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Through social media, the Ark Valley chapter says the lawsuit will cite Article II of the state constitution which covers the legislature's responsibilities and limitations. The chapter also says the union expects the lawsuit to be resolved by the end of this year.

Eyewitness News spoke with the governor's office at the Statehouse in Topeka. His press secretary said it is too early to comment on this lawsuit, saying they haven't seen it yet and anything they say now would be purely hypothetical.

KNEA will hold an official press conference regarding the lawsuit on Monday at 11 a.m. in Topeka.

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