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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Abrams
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Jason B. Long, Senior Assistant Revisor

Date: February 9, 2016

Subject: SB 388 – Awarding of credit hours for CLEP test results.

Senate Bill No. 388 establishes requirements for the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) and Regents' institutions regarding the awarding of credit hours to students who have successfully passed a CLEP exam. The College Level Examination Program (CLEP) is a series of exams provided by the College Board to assist students in postsecondary education. The College Board is a private nonprofit organization that was originally created to expand access to higher education. Typically, a student registers and pays for a CLEP exam. The student studies for the exam and then takes the exam at one of the prescribed dates and times. The results of the exam are then reported by the College Board to the colleges and universities indicated by the student at the time of registration.

Currently, Regents' institutions set the number of credit hours the institution will award a student for successful completion of a CLEP exam. SB 388 would establish minimum policy standards for awarding credit hours that all Regents' institutions would be required to follow. Starting July 1, 2017, all Regents' institution would be required to follow the uniform policy adopted by KBOR. Prior to that date KBOR is required to adopt such a policy with the provisions of SB 388 forming the minimum standards for the policy.

The minimum policy standards include:

- (1) Credit hours awarded shall at least equal the number of credit hours the student would have obtained if the student had taken the course offered at the institution;
- (2) There is no limit on the number of credit hours a student can be awarded for CLEP test results;

(3) Credit hours shall be applied to the student's degree program or general degree requirements depending on the type of exam;

(4) Credit hours shall be listed on the student's transcript as pass/fail; and

(5) Credit hours awarded for CLEP tests shall transfer with the student and be applied to the student's degree at the subsequent institution if it is a Regents' institution.

If enacted the provisions of SB 388 would become effective on July 1, 2016.