

HOUSE BILL No. 2730

By Committee on Appropriations

1-25

9 AN ACT concerning Kansas educational institutions; requiring the pro-
10 vision of educational benefits for certain students who have been
11 placed in foster care; providing for payment of fees for such students.
12

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

14 Section 1. Sections one through five shall be known and may be cited
15 as the Kansas foster child educational assistance act. The purpose of the
16 Kansas foster child educational assistance act is to establish an educational
17 assistance program, under which payment of the tuition and fees charged
18 to eligible foster children shall be provided by the state.

19 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

20 (a) “Kansas educational institution” means and includes area vocational
21 schools, area vocational—technical schools, community colleges, the mu-
22 nicipal university, state educational institutions, technical colleges and
23 accredited independent institutions.

24 (b) “Eligible foster child” means anyone who was:

25 (1) in the custody of the secretary and in a foster care placement on
26 the date such child reached 18 years of age;

27 (2) released from the custody of the secretary prior to age 18, after
28 having graduated from a high school or fulfilled the requirements for a
29 general educational development (GED) certificate while in foster care
30 placement and the custody of the secretary;

31 (3) adopted from a foster care placement on or after such child’s 16th
32 birthday; or

33 (4) on or after such child’s 16th birthday, such child left a foster care
34 placement subject to a guardianship under chapter 38 or 59 of the Kansas
35 Statutes Annotated.

36 (c) “Kansas foster child educational assistance program” or “program”
37 means the program established pursuant to the provisions of the Kansas
38 foster child educational assistance act which shall provide for enrollment
39 of eligible foster children through the semester the eligible foster child
40 reaches 21 years of age not to exceed eight semesters of undergraduate
41 instruction, or the equivalent thereof.

42 (d) “Educational program” means a program which is offered and
43 maintained by a Kansas educational institution and leads to the award of

1 a certificate, diploma or degree upon satisfactory completion of course
2 work requirements.

3 (e) “Secretary” means the secretary of social and rehabilitation services.

4 Sec. 3. The state board of regents shall adopt rules and regulations
5 for administration of the Kansas foster child educational assistance act
6 and shall:

7 (a) Establish a mechanism to ensure distribution of funds for tuition
8 and fee reimbursement to Kansas educational institutions;

9 (b) enter into a cooperative relationship with the secretary to ensure
10 efficient operation of the program;

11 (c) develop and effectuate a system of accountability for all disburse-
12 ments under the program and provide written reports as prescribed; and

13 (d) coordinate with the secretary a procedure to ensure initial and on—
14 going eligibility of all foster children who are program participants.

15 Sec. 4. (a) Every eligible foster child who is enrolled at a Kansas
16 educational institution and who is participating in the program shall be
17 paid the amount of tuition and required fees charged by the Kansas ed-
18 ucational institution for enrollment in courses necessary to satisfy the
19 requirements of an educational program.

20 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
21 an eligible foster child shall not be paid the amount of tuition and required
22 fees charged for any course repeated or taken in excess of the require-
23 ments for completion of the educational program in which such foster
24 child is enrolled. The amount of tuition and required fees paid to an
25 eligible foster child pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, shall be at
26 a rate not to exceed the maximum rate that would be charged by the state
27 educational institution for enrollment of such foster child.

28 Sec. 5. In order to remain eligible for participation in the program,
29 an eligible foster child shall remain in good standing at the Kansas edu-
30 cational institution where enrolled and make satisfactory progress toward
31 completion of the requirements of the educational program in which
32 enrolled.

33 Sec. 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
34 publication in the statute book.