

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Barbara Lawrence at 9:00 a.m. on February 3, 2000 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
 Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
 Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
 Jackie Breymeyer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Marvin Burris, Kansas Board of Regents

Others attending: See Attached List

Chairperson Lawrence called the meeting to order and stated the agenda for the day was:

SB 380 - Kansas ethnic minority scholarship program

She explained that the bill would expand the available institutions in which a recipient could enroll to include area vocational school and technical colleges. The law now includes only the state's private colleges and public universities. There would also be a change in the funding that would allow 75% of the average amount of tuition and fees of full-time, in-state students.

Marvin Burris, Director of Fiscal Affairs, Board of Regents, gave testimony to the committee (Attachment 1). He reiterated what the Chairperson had said and stated that he had an amendment that would include words to the effect that the Kansas ethnic minority scholarship program is a program under which the state, in response to growing concerns over loss of scholastically talented ethnic minority students to postsecondary educational institutions in other states, the need to enhance the diversity of the student population at Kansas postsecondary educational institutions and the barriers to ethnic minority student enrollment in Kansas postsecondary educational institutions and for the purpose of enabling and encouraging scholastically talented ethnic minority students to remain in Kansas for the attainment of educational goals and fulfillment of career aspirations, provides financial assistance through the award of Kansas ethnic minority scholarships to Kansas ethnic minority scholars.

The Chairperson asked if the committee would like to postpone action on the bill until they could see the amendment.

The response was that it was felt action could be taken on the bill, knowing what the amendment would contain.

Senator Lee moved the amendment, seconded by Senator Jones.

The motion carried.

Senator Oleen moved that SB 380 be passed favorably as amended; Senator Lee gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: February 3, 2000

NAME	REPRESENTING
Mary Pruitt	KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
Stacy Farmer	KASB
Teresa L. Clouch	EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY
Mike Matson	KBR
Marilyn Burris	KBR
Cody Decker	Budget

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 380

Presented by Marvin Burris, Director of Fiscal Affairs
Kansas Board of Regents
February 3, 2000

ETHNIC MINORITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Ethnic Minority Scholarship Program was established by the 1989 Legislature to encourage continuous college enrollment immediately following high school graduation. The scholarship is academically competitive, need-based and provides up to \$1,500 for each of four years of full-time college enrollment. During the 1998-99 academic year, a total of \$364,452 was awarded to 267 students from a pool of 565 initially eligible applicants.

A minority student is defined as an American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, Black, or Hispanic person. To qualify for scholarship consideration, a student must meet a combination of the following five criteria: (1) complete the Regents Recommended Curriculum and have a 3.0 cumulative high school GPA; (2) receive an ACT Composite of 21 or greater; (3) rank in the top one-third of his/her high school class; (4) be recognized by the National Merit Corporation or Hispanic Scholar designation by the College Board; and (5) receive an SAT score of 816 or greater. From this pool, recipients are selected for funding.

Senate Bill 380 incorporates three changes to the program which were recommended by the Legislative Educational Planning Committee during the 1999 Interim:

- Expand the list of eligible institutions in which a recipient may enroll to include area vocational technical schools and technical colleges.
- Change the criteria for determining an applicant's financial need to be consistent with the federal methodology for need analysis.
- Change the maximum award from \$1,500 to 75 percent of the average amount of tuition and required fees of full-time, in-state students at the state educational institutions.

In FY 1990, initial funding for the program was \$150,000 to fund 100 scholarships. For FY 2001, the Governor recommends \$360,000 to fund 240 scholarships at \$1,500 each. The proposed new maximum of 75 percent of average state university tuition and fees is projected to be about \$1,900 in FY 2001. The impact of this change would be to require an increase in funding of \$96,000 or a reduction in the number of maximum awards to about 190.

The stated purpose of the program is to respond to concerns over the loss of ethnic minority students to other states and barriers to enrollment in postsecondary institutions by ethnic minority students. While we cannot assess the impact of this relatively small program, national comparison data shows that from 1991 to 1995, Kansas experienced a higher increase in college enrollment of Asian and Hispanic students and comparable increase for American Indian and Black students. Data from the state universities show that from the program's inception to fall 1998, total ethnic minority enrollment increased by 27 percent.

The Board of Regents endorses the proposed changes to expand access to the program and to provide flexibility for the program by allowing the maximum award to increase as costs increase, thus benefiting students. The amendments to index the maximum award and provide for use of the federal need analysis methodology were also recommended by the LEPC for the State Scholarship Program. Such consistency among the programs will facilitate their administration at the state and institutional level, which again will be beneficial to students.

Last December, the Board approved a proposed amendment to this program and the Kansas Minority Fellowship Program to recognize the need to enhance the diversity of student population at the institutions. Committee staff have been provided with the amendment, which we offer for the Committee's consideration. Mary Prewitt, the Board's Associate General Counsel is present to answer questions on the proposed amendment.