

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:40 p.m. on March 13, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Barbara Allen
Carolyn McGinn- excused

Committee staff present: Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ashley Holm, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Senator Roger Reitz
Representative Anthony Brown
Representative L. Candy Ruff
Representative Mario Goico
Corey Peterson, Associated General Contractors of Kansas
Ian Staples, Student Legislative Awareness Board (SLAB)

HB 2093 – Special education service scholarship program; limit of number of scholarships awarded, deleted

Representative Pat Colloton submitted written testimony in support of **HB 2093**. (Attachment 1)

Senator Schodorf informed the Committee that there was no need for a hearing on **HB 2093** because the House of Representatives recently passed a bill with the same provisions.

Senator Schodorf noted that Senator Roger Reitz requested to be heard on a previously heard bill, **HB 2159** concerning the date of determination of school enrollment. Senator Reitz pointed out that the school two-count statute is the keystone to the strategy of school districts surrounding military installations since the BRAC decision two years ago. He requested that the bill not be amended as any amendments would limit and distract from the effectiveness of the measure. (Attachment 2)

HB 2343 – Establishing the early high school graduation incentive program

Sharon Wenger, Legislative Research Department, explained that **HB 2343** established the early high school graduation bonus and scholarship program. Students graduating from high school one year early and seeking postsecondary training as a construction trade worker would be eligible for an incentive bonus of \$1,000 to buy tools for the trade. They would also be eligible for a \$3,000 scholarship for completing a construction trade program at a technical college or vocational education school. If they do not complete the program, they must pay back the scholarship money. Ms. Wenger explained further that **HB 2209** was amended into **HB 2343** by the House. **HB 2209** exempted certain individuals from paying tuition and fees at Kansas educational institutions for up to ten semesters of undergraduate instruction. These individuals are those who graduated from high school in Kansas or received a GED as a resident of Kansas and served in the United States military in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001, for at least 90 days or served less than 90 days because of injuries received in Iraq or Afghanistan. The fiscal note on the original bill estimated \$1.0 million for the incentive bonuses and \$3.0 million for the scholarships for the early high school graduation bonus and scholarship program. Because students participating in this program would not be enrolled in high school for one year, cost savings in state aid could amount to \$4,374,000. The fiscal note on **HB 2209** estimates that 700 of the 2,800 soldiers would apply for this tuition waiver. Based on this information, the fiscal effect of the bill would be \$3,360,000 a year from the State General Fund. In addition, the Board would need one full-time position to administer the program at a cost of \$47,000 per year.

Representative Anthony Brown testified in support of **HB 2343**. He noted that the bill does not mold the student to the system's need but rather is student focused. He further noted that less than 40 percent of all jobs require a Bachelor's Degree, and administrators acknowledge a need for change. Well-educated no longer means university education, and the marketplace is changing with less careers demanding traditional

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Education Committee at 1:40 p.m. on March 13, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

education. He concluded the bill would allow Kansas to meet the needs of the student, which would make Kansas more competitive. (Attachment 3)

Representative L. Candy Ruff testified in support of **HB 2343**. She explained that the bill was created for a small group of students who may respond at the beginning of high school to the idea of taking summer courses in order to graduate in three years and enter the construction/building trades profession. She noted that the building trade skills listed in the bill have apprentice programs in Kansas awaiting students who complete their training in one of the community college or vocational/technical training school construction programs. The intent of the bill was to prepare workers with the initial skills needed to enter the apprentice programs offered in Kansas. She commented that the bill would begin the process of recognizing that not all high school students must attend college in order to be successful. She informed the Committee that the bill received unanimous approval in the House. (Attachment 4)

Representative Mario Goico testified in support of the amendment of **HB 2009** into **HB 2343** by the House. In his opinion, the bill would be an incentive for Kansas veterans to return home, would help ensure that Kansas will continue to have a strong workforce and a viable economy, and would provide a higher quality of life for Kansas veterans. He believes that the Board of Regents' estimate that 700 of the eligible 2,800 soldiers would apply for the tuition waiver was very high. (Attachment 5)

Corey Peterson, Associated General Contractors of Kansas, testified in support of **HB 2343**. He noted that demographics show that the construction industry will be losing a significant portion of its skilled workforce in the next five years due to retirement. He pointed out that there has been a stigma attached to the construction industry that it is not a good career, but the construction industry does provide good paying jobs, benefits, and opportunities for advancement. In addition, he noted that parents and teachers tend to focus on getting students prepared for four year colleges and overlook technical education and the rewarding careers industries like construction have to offer. The bill would increase awareness of the opportunities in technical careers. (Attachment 6)

Ian Staples, Student Legislative Awareness Board (SLAB), testified in support of **HB 2343**. He noted that the bill essentially meets the same goals of benefitting men and women in uniform as a bill he introduced in early February, **HB 2427**. The goal of his bill was to supplement the benefits given to veterans under the Montgomery GI Bill as these benefits have fallen behind the overall price of higher education. He suggested that **HB 2343** be amended to include the cost of living, books, fees, and other expenses. He also suggested that the bill be amended to expand the definition of eligible participants to include any soldier, sailor, or Marine serving in any active combat zone after September 11, 2001. (Attachment 7)

There being no others wishing to testify, the hearing on **HB 2343** was closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2007.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST

DATE: March 13, 2007

NAME	REPRESENTING
Eric Stafford	AG of KS
Corey Peterson	ACC of KS
Arthur R. Brown	38th Dist
Robert Shuman	USD 383
John Ambrust	Governor's Military Council
Randy McFadden	The Adjutant General's Department
Rep Candy Huff	House
Rep MARIO GOICO	HOUSE
Icon Staples	KID
Mark Tallman	KASB
Ken Mack	LGR
Jeanie Rose	KACCT
Mark Desetti	KNEA
TERRY FORSYTH	KNETA
BILL REARDON	USD 500
Val DeFever	KIN
Val DeFever	SQE.
Rol Scheib	USD 208 Sept.
Liane Lindeman	KBOR

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST

DATE: March 13, 2007

NAME	REPRESENTING
Lindsey Douglas	Hain Law Firm

STATE OF KANSAS
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PAT COLLOTON
28TH DISTRICT

March 13, 2007

HB: 2093

Dear Chairman Schodorf and Committee Members

I am here to support an amendment to the provisions of the special education teacher scholarship. The amendment removes the limitation that the scholarship is awarded to only 50 students each year.

Last year the legislature established a special education scholarship especially for those who become special education teachers by getting their Masters in coursework taken at night and summer school over a period of up to five years. Almost 80% of new special education teachers are coming into the schools from these programs and there is almost no financial aid available to them through traditional scholarship programs. Special education is the area with the most teacher vacancies and has the highest turnover rates.

The scholarship is administered by the Board of Regents and provides for up to \$6,000 per student. During the course of administering this scholarship, the Board of Regents found that they can support more than 50 students with the \$300,000 annual fund. Therefore, this amendment will allow the full use of the \$300,000.

Additionally, I would like to propose that the scholarship be made available to all exceptional children. There was some confusion last summer over whether teachers for the gifted students were included. I believe we should cover all exceptionalities and therefore would request a friendly amendment to HB 2093 to accomplish this clarification. A study conducted by Emporia State University last year establishes that the vacancy rate for gifted teachers is actually slightly higher than for the other areas of special education.

I urge you to adopt these changes to the special education teacher scholarship.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Colloton

Pat Colloton

*Senate Education Committee
3-13-07
Attachment 1*

ROGER REITZ

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TOPEKA

SENATE

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MEMBER: COMMERCE
ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
UTILITIES

Committee Members:

The school 2 count statute is the veritable keystone to the strategy of school districts surrounding military installations in Kansas since the BRAC decision two years ago. The formula for funding the increased numbers of students works well with the rapid changes in populations in military areas with troop movements.

The present bill allows the biannual count to continue making possible plans for space and teacher flexibility.

The population expansion and resulting economic benefit to military areas as well as to Kansas in general cannot be overestimated. We need this support for our families and schools.

As a corollary, it is imperative that this bill remains “clean” as it was introduced and passed overwhelmingly by the house. Any amendments will limit and distract from the effectiveness of the measure.

Thank you for your attention.

*Senate Education Committee
3-13-07
Attachment 2*

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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES

HB 2343

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

VICE CHAIR: FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
 MEMBER: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
 TAXATION

Thank you Chairperson Schodorf, Vice-Chairman Vratil and Honorable Education Committee for allowing me to discuss a few issues concerning HB 2343 an early graduation incentive program. Rather than reading my testimony to the committee I will go over a brief outline and stand for questions regarding this legislation.

I. Introduction

- A. Kansas must meet the student at their need.
 - 1. Modifies the System to Student's Need
 - 2. Does not mold the Student to the System's Need
- B. 21st Century provides new challenges
 - 1. Less than 40% of all jobs require a Bachelor's Degree
 - 2. Administrators acknowledge a need for change
 - 3. Over a generation trying to force "Square Pegs in Round Holes"
 - a. Quit Whittling the Peg (Student) to fit into the Hole (System)
 - b. Allow student to pursue interest outside of tradition teaching
- C. Well educated workforce makes Kansas more competitive.
 - 1. Well educated no longer means university educated
 - 2. Market place is changing with less careers demanding traditional education
 - 3. Kansas should lead in this educational opportunity

II. What does the Bill do?

- A. Encourages students to graduate early
 - 1. Only applies to students in public education
 - 2. Must complete all requirements of local district
 - 3. No GED's
 - 4. Only applies to one full year early May of junior year
- B. Cash award of \$1000
- C. One-time scholarship up to \$3000
 - 1. Only in-state vocational or technical college
 - 2. Narrow scope

III. Conclusion

- A. Allows Kansas to meet the needs of the student.
- B. This is a 21st century solution
- C. Makes Kansas more competitive

*Senate Education Committee
 3-13-07
 Attachment 3*

STATE OF KANSAS

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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES

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HOMELAND SECURITY AFFAIRS
MEMBER: COMMERCE & LABOR
MEMBER: JOINT COMMITTEE ON ARTS AND
CULTURAL RESOURCES

To: House Education Committee

From: Rep. L. Candy Ruff

Re: HB 2343

Date: March 13, 2007

Wanting to offer high school students an incentive to enter the construction/building trades industry knowing full well they are unlikely to stick it out for four years of high school, HB 2343 is created for a small group of students. No grand, sweeping program designed to touch most high school students, this bill recognizes the few students who may respond at the beginning of high school to this idea:

* In your freshman year, the possibility exists to graduate from high school in three years, which will in all likelihood include summer school to insure enough credits are taken.

* At the end of that three-year period, two incentives await students interested in entering the construction/building trade's profession.

A \$1,000 bonus applied to the purchase of tools of the trade, given to the vocational/technical trade school in the student's name to be drawn from as the need for tools arise

A \$3,000 scholarship applied to a building trades profession taught in one of the state's vocational/technical institutions.

Initially the bill contained the word "building" trades profession, however, "construction" was amended to include the construction programs offered at several community colleges. The list of skills described in this bill was intentional by the sponsors of this legislation. These building trades' skills have apprentice programs in Kansas awaiting students who complete their training in one of the community college construction programs or a vocational/technical training school. An important final step in this process, attendance in an apprentice program is the last step in the training that guarantees the move to journeyman status. However, apprentice programs are not covered in this legislation. The intent of this bill is to prepare workers with the initial skills needed to enter the apprentice programs offered in Kansas.

The idea for this legislation comes from Rep. Anthony Brown, who is a successful finish carpenter. As an eye witness to the needs of building trades industry, he has observed over the years a certain group of young people who were not cut out for four years of high school. Realizing they may respond to a program that allows them to graduate in three years, Rep. Brown devised a way to establish this scholarship program as an incentive to graduate from high school knowing this bonus awaits them at the end.

Our legislative intent for this legislation is clear.

In no way should high school graduation requirements be altered. When this legislation becomes law, school districts continue to have the final say about allowing early high school graduation. That is a local issue not affected by this bill. Patrons unhappy about their children being denied early graduation have the opportunity to run for the school board and change the policy.

This legislation is not meant to displace nor disrupt existing vocational/technical programs in high school. Rather, the hope is that it will add another incentive to keep students in school with an incentive at the end.

Because the fourth year of high school funding is eliminated, this legislation is intended to have no fiscal note. Keeping with Rep. Anthony's insistence that this bill remain as revenue neutral as possible, the cost of this bill should be minimal.

Understanding any new educational program is a work in process that takes time and patience, we are proud to report that HB 2343 received unanimous approval in the House. In the hope of bringing attention to the building trades industry, this bill is a small gesture meant to help a limited number of students. However, it begins the process of recognizing that not all high school students must attend college in order to be successful. Becoming a carpenter, plumber or electrician will not only guarantee you a place in the middle class but you could also become the most popular person on your block.

STATE OF KANSAS



TOPEKA

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VICE CHAIRMAN: VETERANS, MILITARY AND
HOMELAND SECURITY
MEMBER: INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS
COMMERCE AND LABOR

**Testimony for the
Senate Education Committee
HB 2343 –Early High School Graduation Incentive Program**

Honorable Chairperson Sen. Schodorf and committee members, I will testify only on the House amendment to this legislation. The purpose of this amendment is to provide scholarships to military service veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Initially this was HB 2009, but because of a clerical error it was omitted from consideration by the House Committee of the Whole.

This legislation honors combat veterans for their service to our country by exempting them from paying tuition and fees for up to 10 semesters of post secondary education at all institutions supported by state funding. The requirements are to have graduated from a Kansas high school or received, as residents of Kansas, a General Educational Diploma (GED); and have served in the U.S. military in Iraq or Afghanistan for at least 90 days after September 11, 2001, or for less than 90 days because of injuries; or have served in international waters or on foreign soil in support of military operations in Iraq or Afghanistan for that time period. The veteran must have received an honorable discharge, or still be in military service, and have a DD-214 Form or active duty orders that include one of the following military operations: Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle or Iraqi Freedom. The State funding will be for what the Federal Government funding would not cover for this higher education. Subject to appropriations, state universities may be reimbursed by the Board of Regents for the tuition and fees.

This bill will be an incentive for our Kansas veterans to return home. The bill will also help assure that Kansas will continue to have a strong work force and a viable economy, and provide a higher quality of life for our veterans. These returning veterans deserve the support that Kansas will give them. The cost to Kansas is a small price to pay, given the sacrifices these young men and women have made for their country. These veterans left their families, homes and jobs, and put opportunities of getting a higher education or training aside to be part of the war effort. Currently Kansas provides these benefits to a POW/MIA/killed in action dependents.

The Board of Regents estimates that 700 of the eligible 2,800 soldiers would apply for this tuition waiver. I believe that this estimate is very high; testimony in the House

*Senate Education Committee
3-13-07
Attachment 5*

committee was that existing scholarships for POW/MIA/killed in action dependents would be 300, the actual number is 21. The average tuition and fees for a full-time student are approximately \$4,800 per year. Based on this information, the fiscal effect of the program would be \$3,360,000 a year from the State General Fund. In addition, the Board of Regents would need 1.00 FTE position to administer the program at a cost of \$47,000 per year.

"Madame Chair I stand for questions on the amendment to this bill."

"Madame Chair, I request that the Committee considers HB 2343 favorably for passage."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Min Jinn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.



Building a Better Kansas Since 1934
200 SW 33rd St. Topeka, KS 66611 785-266-4015

**TESTIMONY OF
ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF KANSAS
BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HB 2343**

March 13, 2007

By Corey D Peterson, Associated General Contractors of Kansas, Inc.

Madame Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Corey Peterson. I am the Executive Vice President of the Associated General Contractors of Kansas, Inc. The AGC of Kansas is a trade association representing the commercial building construction industry, including general contractors, subcontractors and suppliers throughout Kansas (with the exception of Johnson and Wyandotte counties).

The AGC of Kansas supports House Bill 2343 and requests that you report it favorably for passage.

Developing the future workforce has been a top priority for AGC of Kansas for several years. Demographics show that the construction industry will be losing a significant portion of its skilled workforce in the next 5 years due to retirement. While our industry has been planning for a future where a worker shortage looms, we are quickly realizing the "future is now." In the past three months AGC has had members reporting they are turning down work because they can not staff the jobs. HB 2343 provides opportunities that utilize "outside the box" thinking, which is needed.

AGC understands it and other construction related groups face an up-hill battle in bringing young people into our industry. There has been a stigma attached to construction that it is not a good place to have a career. **While in reality, the construction industry provides good paying jobs, benefits and opportunities for advancement.** Often times, compensation in construction is far superior to those careers offered to four year college degree recipients.

In addition, parents, teachers, counselors, and school administrators all tend to focus on getting students prepared for four year colleges and overlook technical education and the rewarding careers industries like construction have to offer. Many times it is only after the system has failed a student, be it several years into college or after arriving on campus and realizing it "is not for them," does the student get steered to technical education and informed of the careers that await. There should be a direct career path that is developed, funded, and promoted.

Workforce development is both an education and economic development issue. The benefits of technical education should be considered, both for the opportunities it can create for the citizens of Kansas, and for our state's ability to grow economically. Kansas must have a trained workforce, including technical professions, if it hopes to be competitive.

HB 2343 provides awareness to opportunities in technical careers and an incentive to continue education after high school. **The AGC of Kansas respectfully requests that you recommend HB 2343 for passage.** Thank you for your consideration.

*Senate Education Committee
3-13-07
Attachment 6*

SLAB STUDENT LEGISLATIVE AWARENESS BOARD

TESTIMONY OF IAN STAPLES

Legislative Director for the University of Kansas Student Senate

Before the Committee on Education, Kansas State Senate

March 13th, 2007

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee -

I am pleased to present my testimony this afternoon regarding House Bill 2343. In early February I introduced House Bill 2427, The Returning Heroes' Education Act to the House Committee on Veterans Military and Homeland Security, this act would have established an educational assistance program under which the state would pay tuition and fees on behalf of eligible honorably discharged members of the U.S. armed forces. The bill before you today essentially meets the same goals of benefiting our men and women in uniform as my original bill but I believe we can do more.

My original bill was a combined effort of the College Veterans Association and their president Dan Parker, who himself served in Iraq twice, and the Student Legislative Awareness Board of the University of Kansas. Our goal was to supplement the benefits given to veterans under the Montgomery GI Bill as these benefits have fallen behind the overall price of higher education. We feel that the combined benefits will better assist returning veterans by providing not only tuition assistance but assistance with the cost of living, books, fees, and other expenses. I would rely on the wisdom of the committee in this matter and would like to propose that an amendment be made to reflect this.

My other concern with this bill is the number of eligible participants. Currently the proposed legislation would only benefit those who served "after September 11, 2001, in one or more of the following military operations: (i) Enduring Freedom; (ii) Nobel Eagle; or (iii) Iraqi Freedom." We believe that this definition can be expanded to include any Soldier, Sailor, or Marine serving in or in support of any active combat zone after September 11th, 2001. We see these changes as good for our university communities, our men and women in uniform and for the people of Kansas.