

SESSION OF 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2821

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Education

Brief*

HB 2821 would authorize the local governing board of a vocational technical school or technical college to set the hourly tuition rate for postsecondary students, subject to approval by the State Board of Regents. Currently, postsecondary students are required to pay 15 percent of the local cost per credit hour, which is calculated based on a statutory formula.

Background

Under current law (KSA 72-4430 *et seq.*), postsecondary state aid is distributed to area vocational schools and technical colleges on the basis of a formula under which the state pays 85 percent of a calculated "local cost per credit hour" for each institution and the postsecondary student pays the remaining 15 percent. The change proposed in HB 2821 would allow local governing boards of each institution to set their own hourly postsecondary student tuition rates, but would make no change to the formula on which postsecondary state aid is based.

The President of the Northeast Kansas Technical College and a representative of the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges appeared before the Senate Education Committee in support of the bill. Written testimony in support of HB 2821 was submitted by the President of the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges, the President of the Northwest Kansas Technical College, and the State Board of Regents. Written testimony indicated that removing the 15 percent cap on postsecondary student tuition rates

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/cgi-bin/fulltext/bills.cgi>

would allow institutions to establish a market driven tuition rate and serve as an incentive to expand instructional programs and meet the enrollment and employer requests for technical education.

The Senate Education Committee amended the bill to continue to require State Board of Regents approval of locally-set postsecondary student tuition rates.

Passage of the bill would have no effect on the state, according to a fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget.