

SESSION OF 2003

**SECOND  
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF  
SENATE BILL NO. 7**

As Agreed to April 4, 2003

**Brief \***

**Governance of Technical Colleges**

SB 7 would require the governing boards of all technical colleges to develop a plan to replace the existing board with an independent governing board which is not a school district governing board. The plans would have to be developed and presented to the State Board of Regents on or before July 1, 2005. Existing statutory provisions for technical college boards would cease to be effective on July 1, 2009. All plans would have to be approved by the Regents and by the governing board of the technical college. If the governing Board and the Board of Regents do not agree on a plan by June 30, 2007, the Board of Regents would be authorized to approve a plan. The plans would have to address at least the following matters:

- ! The composition of the independent governing board;
- ! The territory of the technical college;
- ! The method of election or appointment and the terms of the members of the independent governing board;
- ! The date upon which the independent governing board shall assume management and control of the technical college; and
- ! Issues relating to the transfer of facilities, indebtedness, liabilities, faculty, employees, and students of the technical college to the independent board.

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\*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. The conference committee summary report may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/kldr>

The date the independent board would become operational would be determined by the plan. The independent board would operate under the same rules and regulations and supervision of the State Board of Regents as do other technical colleges and area vocational schools and would have powers to:

- ! Determine the vocational, technical, and general education courses of instruction that will comprise the associate of applied science degree programs of the college;
- ! Establish completion requirements for the associate of applied science degree programs of the college;
- ! Confer the associate of applied science degree or award a certificate or diploma to students who successfully complete programs; and
- ! Appoint teaching staff and fix and determine teacher qualifications, duties, and compensation.

The bill would provide that faculty members and employees of school districts who are transferred to the new governing board would retain accrued sick, vacation and personal leave; remain eligible for any early retirement incentive program or benefits; and retain salary as if no transfer had occurred.

### **Tuition and Fee Waivers**

Finally, the bill provides for tuition and fee waivers for dependents of volunteer firefighters who have died in the line of duty. Such tuition and fee waivers would be available at area vocational-technical schools, area vocational schools, community colleges, Washburn University, Regents institutions, and technical colleges. Under current law, tuition and fee waivers are available to surviving dependents of law enforcement officers, paid firefighters and emergency medical services attendants.

## **Background**

The Conference Committee agreed to the House amendments to the bill with the following exceptions:

- ! Removing a provision for replacement of school district bond and interest state aid with a payment from the technical college in the event a building for which bonds had been issued by the school district is transferred to the technical college;
- ! Removing provisions that would have created two new advisory committees to the Board of Regents; and
- ! Providing that if the technical college board and the Board of Regents have not reached an agreement on a plan, as required by the bill, the Board of Regents would be authorized to approve a plan for that technical college.
- ! Removing the authority for the independent governing boards to levy a capital improvements property tax.