

SESSION OF 2004

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2509

As Recommended by House Committee on
Higher Education

Brief*

HB 2509 would require the Board of Regents to periodically survey educational programs at Kansas' community colleges and technical colleges to identify educational programs that provide students unique or exemplary educational opportunities. Criteria for designation would include, but not be limited to, programs that:

- are unique to Kansas or to the region and which serve a specific need;
- serve a particular need in an area of the state in an exemplary manner;
- address an emerging or developing technical or occupational area;
- address in a unique or exemplary manner a demand for a trained workforce in a specific vocation or occupation with statewide impact; and
- reach beyond the host institution to other institutions or parts of the state.

Programs selected by the Board would be designated "Focus on Excellence Centers." All such designations would be reviewed every three years and renewed or revoked.

The bill would create the Focus on Excellence Fund in the state treasury. The fund would be administered by the Board of Regents. The Board would be authorized to transfer any portion of any item of its appropriations to the fund. The fund also would be the repository for gifts and grants. Appropriations transferred to the fund could be used for expenditures to expand or increase the effectiveness, student access, and statewide benefit of Focus on Excellence Centers.

*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>

Background

During the House Higher Education Committee's hearing on the bill, testimony was presented by representatives of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees and the Kansas Board of Regents. In both cases, the testimony identified efforts currently underway to identify exemplary programs and to improve programs in Kansas' Technical and Community Colleges.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the Board of Regents reports that it does not have sufficient resources to manage the program that would be created by the bill. The fiscal note estimate for the cost of the program is \$70,000 for personnel costs and \$7,500 for operating expenditures, including travel. The fiscal note also states that startup costs of office equipment would total \$5,000. The total projected administrative cost of the program for FY 2005 would be \$82,500 from the State General Fund. Funding for Excellence Centers would be transferred to the special revenue fund that would be created by the bill from other moneys appropriated to the Board of Regents. The fiscal note states that it is not possible to know how much funding would be available from those sources. Finally, the fiscal note states that the Governor's budget recommendation for FY 2005 does not include funding for the program.