

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Troy Waymaster, Chairperson
House Committee on Appropriations
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 112-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Waymaster:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2402 by House Committee on Appropriations

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2402 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2402 would establish the Blue Ribbon Commission on Higher Education, which would be required to study, discuss, and make recommendations on higher education in Kansas. The Commission would be composed of 17 members as follows:

1. One member appointed by the Chairperson of the Board of Regents;
2. One member appointed by the Governor;
3. One member of the majority party of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
4. One member of the majority party of the House of Representatives appointed by the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives;
5. One member of the minority party of the House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;
6. One member of the majority party of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;
7. One member of the majority party of the Senate appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate;
8. One member of the minority party of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

9. One member to represent the regional universities jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
10. One member to represent the big three universities jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
11. One member appointed by the Kansas Association of Technical Colleges;
12. One member appointed by the Kansas Association of Community Colleges;
13. One member who is a student attending a postsecondary educational institution appointed by the Speaker Pro Tem of the House of Representatives;
14. One member who is the parent of a student attending a postsecondary educational institution appointed by the Vice President of the Senate;
15. One member who is a higher education expert jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
16. One member of the public appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
17. One member of the public appointed by the President of the Senate.

The terms of the members of the Commission would expire on January 1, 2027. Any vacancy on the Commission would be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. The Chairperson of the Commission would be jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Commission may meet at any time, at any place within Kansas and through any means upon call of the Chairperson. All actions taken by the Commission would be made by motion and adopted by a majority of those present when there is a quorum present, which would be nine members. Members of the Commission attending meetings authorized by the Commission would be paid amounts for expense, mileage, and subsistence by the Board of Regents.

The Commission would make recommendations on the following:

1. Long-term goals and priorities for higher education;
2. Governing structure, financing, cost, savings, and consolidation of Board of Regents schools, community colleges, and technical colleges;
3. Accessibly and affordability of higher education;
4. Strengths and weaknesses of higher education and postsecondary educational institutions;
5. Strategies for enrollment and degree completion; and
6. Strategies for right-sizing and streamlining higher education for the future with a student focus.

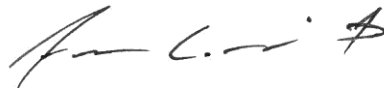
On or before January 1, 2026, the Commission would be required to submit to the Legislature a preliminary report on the Commission's findings and recommendations for higher education in Kansas. By January 1, 2027, the Commission would be required to submit a final report to the Legislature on the Commission's findings and recommendations for Kansas higher

education. The staffs of the Board of Regents, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, the Legislative Research Department, and the Division of Legislative Administrative Services would be required to provide assistance to the Commission as requested.

The Board of Regents estimates additional State General Fund expenditures of \$76,000 in FY 2026 and \$38,000 in FY 2027. Of the FY 2026 amount, \$58,000 is for mileage, \$7,000 is for subsistence, and \$11,000 is for lodging. The Board's estimates assume the Commission would meet 18 times during FY 2026 for 12 one-day meetings and six two-day meetings. Of the FY 2027 amount, \$29,000 is for mileage, \$3,500 is for subsistence, and \$5,500 is for lodging. The Board's estimates assume the Commission would meet nine times during FY 2027 for six one-day meetings and three two-day meetings.

Legislative Administrative Services indicates there would not be a fiscal effect on the Legislature's budget since Commission members would be reimbursed by the Board of Regents. The Kansas Legislative Research Department (KLRD) indicates since the Commission may meet anywhere in Kansas, additional expenditures would be incurred by KLRD for mileage, food, and hotel accommodations, which cannot be estimated. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2402 is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Tom Day, Legislative Services
Becky Pottebaum, Board of Regents