

February 3, 2025

The Honorable Renee Erickson, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Education
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 144-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Erickson:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 44 by Senate Committee on Education

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 44 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

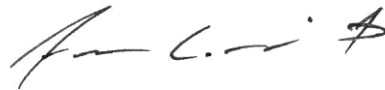
SB 44 would expand the number of postsecondary educational institutions eligible to participate in the Kansas Promise Scholarship Program by amending the definition of “eligible postsecondary educational institution” to include “any institution of postsecondary education with its main campus or principal place of operation in Kansas that offers a promise eligible program, is recognized by the state board of regents, is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency for higher education in the United States and is eligible to receive funding under title IV of the higher education act of 1965.”

The Board of Regents indicates the bill’s enactment would expand the number of students eligible for the Kansas Promise Scholarship Program. If the bill is enacted, the Board indicates the Heartland Welding and Wichita Technical Institute would qualify for the scholarship and additional institutions may qualify in the future. Because of the scholarship’s annual appropriation limit of \$10.0 million, the Board estimates that eligible applicants would be denied awards rather than increasing the overall total. This would affect not only the two new institutions but also the 32 schools that received funding in FY 2024.

If the \$10.0 million limitation is adjusted, the Board estimates additional expenditures of \$1,564,414 in FY 2026 and \$1,617,907 in FY 2027 from the State General Fund would be needed to fund students who complete their programs and qualify for the Kansas Promise Scholarship Program. The Board states that as tuition costs rise, additional funding would be needed in future fiscal years.

The Board also notes that without additional funding, there would be an increase in staff time to manage the increased applications and maintain a waiting list of eligible applicants if the bill is enacted. If the Kansas Promise Scholarship Program would be changed to allow for additional funds, there would still be an increase in staff time to manage the increased applications, according to the Board. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 44 is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam C. Proffitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct flourish at the end.

Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Becky Pottebaum, Board of Regents