

SESSION OF 2026

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 406**

As Recommended by Senate Committee on  
Education

**Brief\***

SB 406 would require the Governor, in consultation with the state workforce development board, to approve eligible workforce training programs for federal Workforce Pell Grants and establish requirements for the state workforce development board regarding the Workforce Pell Grant Program.

The bill would require the state workforce development board to:

- Establish an internal process for eligibility approval of postsecondary educational institutions and programs for Workforce Pell Grants;
- Establish an appeals process for postsecondary educational institutions and programs denied eligibility for Workforce Pell Grants;
- Coordinate approval of eligible workforce training programs with other state and federal workforce programs to prevent duplicative funding for similar programs; and
- Align and leverage available state and federal moneys to support the implementation and expansion of eligible workforce training programs.

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\*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 <https://klrd.gov/>

[*Note:* The state workforce development board in Kansas is the KANSASWORKS State Board and was established pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.]

For purposes of the bill, an “eligible workforce training program” would mean any program that meets federal requirements in Section 481(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, including:

- Is a program offered by an eligible institution that:
  - Is at least 150 but less than 600 clock hours of instruction or an equivalent number of credit hours; and
  - Is at least 8 and less than 15 weeks of duration;
- Is not offered as a correspondence course, as defined in federal regulations;
- Is determined by the Governor, in consultation with the state workforce development board, that the program:
  - Provides an education aligned with the requirements of high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations;
  - Meets the hiring requirements of potential employers in the in-demand industry sectors or occupations;
  - Leads to either a postsecondary credential that is stackable and portable across more than one employer or is for an occupation for which the postsecondary credential is the only one recognized; and
  - Prepares students to pursue one or more certificate or degree programs at an institution of higher education where the student would receive academic credit for the workforce

development program toward the certificate or degree program; and

- Upon approval by the Governor, is determined by the U.S. Secretary of Education (Secretary) that, for each award year, the program:
  - Has been offered by the eligible institution for one or more years prior to the Secretary's determination;
  - Has a verified completion rate of at least 70.0 percent or more within 150.0 percent of the normal time for completion;
  - Has a verified job placement rate of at least 70.0 percent or more 180 days after completion; and
  - Has total published tuition and fees that do not exceed the value-added earnings of students who received federal financial aid and completed the program three years prior by calculating the difference between 150.0 percent of the poverty line for a single individual and the adjusted median earnings for such students based upon the location of the program.

The bill would state that the requirements of the bill would be consistent with applicable federal rules governing the Workforce Pell Grant Program and that, if any provision conflicts with federal law, federal law would govern.

### **Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Education at the request of Senator Erickson.

### **Senate Committee on Education**

At the Senate Committee hearing on February 9, 2026, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of FGA Action and the Kansas Association of Community Colleges. Proponents generally stated that the bill would help ongoing efforts by delineating responsibilities to help ensure the state is both in compliance with federal law and has as many eligible programs approved as possible by the federal deadline.

No other testimony was provided.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Department of Commerce estimates additional SGF expenditures of \$95,000 in FY 2027 and \$94,500 in FY 2028 and an additional 1.0 FTE position for both fiscal years. The agency states that \$500 in FY 2027 would be a one-time expenditure to develop a new webpage to share information regarding the program and the remaining \$94,500 and 1.0 FTE in FY 2027 and the entirety of the \$94,500 and 1.0 FTE in FY 2028 would be for the salaries and wages of a program manager.

The State Board of Regents stated that the additional administrative duties created by the bill could be absorbed within existing resources.

The Office of the Governor indicated the bill would have no fiscal effect.

Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

Education; postsecondary education; workforce development; governor; Pell Grants; workforce training program; State Workforce Development Board