

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 437

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Education

Brief*

SB 437 would establish the Technical College Funding Task Force (Task Force) and require the Task Force to design a pilot outcomes-based funding model for Kansas technical colleges, develop outcome metrics and recommendations for distributing additional state funding, and submit a report to the Legislature by January 31, 2028.

Technical College Funding Task Force

Membership Appointments

The bill would establish the Task Force as being composed of the following 15 members:

- The President or the President's designee of:
 - Manhattan Area Technical College;
 - Washburn Institute of Technology;
 - Salina Area Technical College;
 - Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology;
 - Flint Hills Technical College;
 - Fort Hays State University – North Central Kansas Technical College; and

*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/>

- Fort Hays State University – Northwest Kansas Technical College; and
- One member each appointed by the:
 - Secretary of Commerce;
 - Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - Majority Leader of the House of Representatives;
 - Speaker Pro Tem of the House of Representatives;
 - Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;
 - President of the Senate;
 - Majority Leader of the Senate; and
 - Minority Leader of the Senate.

The bill would require members to be appointed to the Task Force on or before December 31, 2026.

Task Force Organization

The bill would require that the chairperson of the Task Force be selected by its members and require eight Task Force members to be present for purposes of a quorum.

The bill would also require assistance to be provided upon request of the Task Force from staff of:

- The Office of the Revisor of Statutes;
- The Legislative Research Department;
- The Division of Legislative Administrative Services;
- The State Board of Regents; and
- The State Department of Education.

Task Force Meetings

The bill would authorize the Task Force to meet at any time and place within the state upon the call of the chairperson. The bill would provide that, if approved by the Legislative Coordinating Council, members of the Task Force who attend meetings would be paid amounts for expenses, mileage, and subsistence as established in law.

Charge of the Technical College Funding Task Force

Pilot Funding Model

The bill would require the Task Force to develop a pilot outcomes-based state funding model for technical colleges that aligns state investment with measurable outcome metrics. Such pilot funding model would be required to:

- Recommend an amount of additional moneys to be appropriated for such funding model;
- Develop an outcomes-based method of distribution of the recommended additional moneys to technical colleges based on outcome metrics established by the Task Force;
- Ensure appropriate distribution of additional state moneys across technical colleges; and
- Align technical college funding with strategic state goals in economic development, rural revitalization, and workforce development and expansion.

The pilot funding model could include additional funding sources or mechanisms to enhance and stabilize funding to technical colleges, including, but not limited to, enrollment-based funding and operating grants.

Outcome Metrics

The bill would require the Task Force to establish measurable outcome metrics for technical colleges and their impacts on academic success, workforce outcomes, economic development, and community stability and revitalization. Such outcome measures could include, but would not be limited to:

- Academic progress and completion;
- Dual and concurrent enrollment and early postsecondary success;
- Industry credentials and licensure;
- Workforce entry and retention; and
- Critical-need, high-wage, and emerging-need occupation placement.

Report

The bill would require the Task Force to submit a report to the Legislature on or before January 31, 2028, that includes:

- Recommendations on establishing a pilot technical college funding model to test and validate the impact of the outcomes-based criteria;
- Additional appropriations for such pilot funding model;
- The timing and method of implementation of such pilot funding model; and
- Any other recommendation related to technical college funding.

Background

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

Senate Committee on Education

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Senator Starnes and a representative of Manhattan Area Technical College. Proponents generally stated that the development of an outcomes-based funding model would align funding with the State's economic goals and outcome measures while also providing the technical colleges with a consistent funding source, as they do not have any taxing authority.

Written-only **neutral** testimony was provided by a representative of the State Board of Regents.

Opponent testimony was provided by a representative of Kansas Association of Community Colleges. The conferee generally stated that community colleges supported developing a performance-based funding model but would prefer working with technical colleges and the State Board of Regents to develop a broader model for the entire two-year sector rather than creating a pilot task force in statute.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Division of Legislative Administrative Services (LAS) estimates the bill would required additional State General Fund expenditures of \$5,702 in FY 2027 and \$22,814 in FY 2028.

Of the FY 2027 amount, \$4,965 would be for non-legislator pay for Task Force members and \$737 would be for Committee Assistant pay. Of the FY 2028 amount, \$19,860

would be for non-legislator pay for Task Force members and \$2,954 would be for Committee Assistant pay.

The estimates assume that the Task Force would have one meeting in FY 2027 and four meetings in FY 2028 and that no members of the 15-member Task Force would be legislators.

LAS notes the bill does not have a sunset date, so the agency estimates additional funding would be needed in future fiscal years beyond FY 2028.

The State Board of Regents, the Office of Revisor of Statutes, and the Legislative Research Department indicate any fiscal effect resulting from the bill's enactment would be absorbed within existing resources. The Department of Education indicates there would not be a fiscal effect if the bill is enacted.

Any fiscal effect associated with SB 437 is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

Education; technical colleges; postsecondary education; higher education; career and technical education;