

HOUSE BILL No. 2234

By Committee on Education

2-8

1 AN ACT establishing the early high school graduation scholarship
2 program; amending K.S.A. 2010 Supp. 72-6438 and repealing the
3 existing section.

4
5 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

6 New Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
7 early high school graduation scholarship program act.

8 New Sec. 2. As used in sections 1 through 6, and amendments
9 thereto:

10 (a) “Early high school graduation scholarship program” or
11 “program” means the program established by the state board pursuant to
12 section 3, and amendments thereto.

13 (b) “Institution” means a postsecondary educational institution or a
14 private postsecondary educational institution located within the state of
15 Kansas.

16 (c) “Postsecondary educational institution” and “private
17 postsecondary educational institution” have the meanings ascribed
18 thereto in K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments thereto.

19 (d) “Pupil” or “student” means a pupil who: (1) Graduates from a
20 Kansas public high school at least one year earlier than the usual
21 graduation time; (2) meets the minimum grade point average requirement
22 established by the state board; and (3) has received counseling as required
23 by section 3, and amendments thereto.

24 (e) “State board” means the state board of education.

25 New Sec. 3. (a) The state board shall establish an early high school
26 graduation scholarship program. Scholarships awarded under the program
27 shall not exceed \$1,500 per semester or its equivalent. Scholarships may
28 be used to pay the cost of fees and tuition for attendance at an institution,
29 and books, supplies and equipment required for any courses in which the
30 student is enrolled. If a student is not enrolled on a full-time basis at an
31 institution, the student shall receive a proportionate amount of the
32 scholarship allowed under this subsection based upon the number of
33 hours enrolled in an academic period, and computed as a fraction of the
34 total number of credit hours required for full-time enrollment. A student
35 may be awarded a scholarship for not more than two semesters or the
36 equivalent thereof for students not enrolled on a full-time basis.

1 (b) The state board may adopt rules and regulations deemed
2 necessary to implement the program including, but not limited to:

3 (1) Eligibility requirements of applicants for scholarship;

4 (2) procedures relating to the submission of applications and
5 supporting documentation;

6 (3) the amount of a scholarship awarded under the program;

7 (4) procedures relating to the payment of the scholarship to the
8 institution; and

9 (5) the operation of the program.

10 (c) A pupil shall not be eligible for a scholarship unless the pupil has
11 received counseling on the advantages and disadvantages of graduating
12 early from high school. Such counseling shall be provided by the
13 student's high school counselor or by a counselor meeting requirements
14 established by the state board.

15 (d) An applicant for a scholarship shall provide to the state board, on
16 forms supplied by the state board, information required by the state
17 board.

18 (e) As a condition to awarding a scholarship under the program, the
19 state board and the applicant shall enter into an agreement which shall
20 require the applicant to:

21 (1) Enroll in an institution; and

22 (2) maintain records and make reports to the state board as required
23 by the agreement.

24 (f) Within the limitations of appropriations therefor, the number of
25 scholarships awarded and the amount awarded to each applicant shall be
26 determined by the state board. The amount awarded shall be specified in
27 the agreement.

28 New Sec. 4. (a) There is hereby established in the state treasury
29 the early high school graduation scholarship fund. The fund shall consist
30 of all amounts transferred or credited thereto.

31 (b) On or before June 1 of each school year, the state board shall
32 certify to the director of accounts and reports the number of pupils who
33 have graduated from a Kansas public high school at least one year earlier
34 than the usual graduation time during the current school year. On July 1
35 of each year or as soon thereafter as funds are available, the director of
36 accounts and reports shall transfer from the state school district finance
37 fund to the early high school graduation scholarship fund an amount
38 equal to \$3,000 for each pupil certified by the state board as having
39 graduated from a Kansas public high school at least one year earlier than
40 the usual graduation time during the current school year. All transfers
41 made in accordance with the provisions of this subsection shall be
42 considered to be demand transfers from the state general fund.

43 (c) (1) Except as provided by paragraph (2), moneys in the early

1 high school graduation scholarship fund shall be used solely for the
2 purpose of paying scholarships awarded under the early high school
3 graduation scholarship program act.

4 (2) Any moneys remaining in the early high school graduation
5 scholarship fund after the payment of scholarships shall be transferred to
6 the state school district finance fund and shall be used to increase the
7 amount of base state aid per pupil. Such moneys shall be in addition to
8 moneys appropriated for general state aid and shall not be used to
9 supplant moneys appropriated for general state aid.

10 New Sec. 5. If a student does not use all scholarship funds available
11 to such student under this act within four years of graduating from high
12 school, or within eight years if such student is attending an institution on
13 a part-time basis, the balance of such funds shall be transferred to the
14 state school district finance fund as provided by section 4, and
15 amendments thereto.

16 New Sec. 6. (a) Each school year the state board shall:

17 (1) Determine the total amount of general state aid that all districts
18 would have received for all students who graduated from public high
19 schools at least one year earlier than the usual graduation time if those
20 students had remained enrolled in the school district during the current
21 school year;

22 (2) multiply \$3,000 by the number of students certified to the
23 director of accounts and reports pursuant to section 4, and amendments
24 thereto;

25 (3) subtract the product obtained under paragraph (2) from the
26 amount determined under paragraph (1); and

27 (4) transfer the difference obtained under paragraph (3) to the state
28 school district finance fund.

29 (b) Any moneys transferred to the state school district finance fund
30 pursuant to this section shall be used to increase the amount of base state
31 aid per pupil. Such moneys shall be in addition to moneys appropriated
32 for general state aid and shall not be used to supplant moneys
33 appropriated for general state aid.

34 Sec. 7. K.S.A. 2010 Supp. 72-6438 is hereby amended to read as
35 follows: 72-6438. (a) The state school district finance fund, established
36 by K.S.A. 1991 Supp. 72-7081 prior to its repeal by the school district
37 finance and quality performance act, is hereby continued in existence and
38 shall consist of: (1) All moneys credited to such fund under K.S.A. 72-
39 6418, 72-6431, 72-6441 and K.S.A. 2010 Supp. 72-6449 and 72-6451,
40 and amendments thereto; and (2) all amounts transferred to such fund.

41 (b) The state school district finance fund shall be used for the
42 purpose of school district finance and *for transfers to the early high*
43 *school graduation scholarship fund as required by section 4, and*

1 *amendments thereto, and* for no other governmental purpose. It is the
2 intent of the legislature that the fund shall remain intact and inviolate for
3 such ~~purpose~~ *purposes*, and moneys in the fund shall not be subject to the
4 provisions of K.S.A. 75-3722, 75-3725a and 75-3726a, and amendments
5 thereto.

6 (c) Amounts in the state school district finance fund shall be
7 allocated and distributed to school districts as a portion of general state
8 aid entitlements provided for under this act.

9 Sec. 8. K.S.A. 2010 Supp. 72-6438 is hereby repealed.

10 Sec. 9. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
11 publication in the statute book.

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