

SESSION OF 2013

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 128

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Education

Brief*

SB 128 would amend the statute creating the Career Technical Education (CTE) Incentive Program. The bill would specify that a student's accomplishment of obtaining an industry-recognized credential in one of certain specific occupations (a criterion for a school district or community or technical college to receive an incentive award) must be completed prior to graduation from high school or by December 31 immediately following graduation.

Background

In 2012, the Legislature enacted SB 155, which, in part, created the CTE Incentive Program (*via* a new section that became KSA 2012 Supp. 72-4489). The CTE Incentive Program had begun as part of the Governor's Excellence in Education Act legislation (2012 SB 361).

KSA 2012 Supp. 72-4489 requires the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) to establish the CTE incentive program, which will award \$1,000, subject to appropriation, to a school district for each high school student who graduates from that district with an industry-recognized credential in an occupation deemed by the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the KBOR and the State Board of Education, as being in highest need of additional skilled employees at the time the pupil entered the CTE course or program in the district. A school district must reimburse a pupil who has not obtained a high school diploma and is or was enrolled in a CTE course

*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 <http://www.kslegislature.org>

or program in the district an amount up to half the cost of the industry-recognized credential assessment (assessment). This reimbursement will be taken out of the \$1,000 incentive award to the school district. No school district is required to pay for three or more assessments for the same or substantially the same credential if the pupil fails to earn the credential within two attempts of taking the assessment. After paying for assessments, the school district is allowed to use any remaining portion of the \$1,000 award for the district's operating expenses.

In the statute, the same provisions apply to students from private secondary schools, attending a community or technical college or institute of technology, except that KBOR must reimburse the community or technical institution for payment of the cost of assessments up to \$1,000 per student. The statute also clarifies that KBOR is required to distribute state funds to community colleges, technical colleges, and the Institute of Technology at Washburn University for the costs associated with secondary students enrolled at postsecondary CTE programs, to the extent sufficient moneys are appropriated to the program..

Testifying in favor of the bill at the Senate Education Committee hearing were representatives of the Governor's Office, Wichita Public Schools, Topeka Public Schools, and the Kansas Association of Technical Colleges (the last also being President of North Central Kansas Technical College). Proponents indicated the bill would be beneficial for students who, for example, complete a program in May and graduate in May, but might not be eligible to complete the industry assessment until June.

No neutral or opposing testimony was received.

According to the Division of the Budget fiscal note, the CTE Incentive Program is expected to expand significantly in the near future; however, the amount associated with the change to the program in SB 128 could not be quantified and is not contained in *The FY 2014 Governor's Budget Report*.