

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MADAM PRESIDENT and MR. SPEAKER: Your committee on conference on **HB 2622** submits the following report:

The Senate recedes from all of its amendments to the bill, and your committee on conference further agrees to amend the bill, as introduced, as follows:

On page 1, following line 9, by inserting:

"New Section 1. (a) The state board of regents shall publish degree prospectus information for each undergraduate degree program offered by each postsecondary educational institution that summarizes information and statistics on such degree program. Upon request, each postsecondary educational institution shall provide any necessary information to the state board of regents.

(b) The degree prospectus for each degree program shall include the following:

(1) A description of the degree program, provided nothing in the description shall contradict, mitigate or otherwise explain any of the statistical information described in subsections (b)(2) through (b)(8);

(2) the typical number of years recent graduates have taken to obtain the degree from such postsecondary educational institution;

(3) the expected number of credit hours required to obtain the degree from such postsecondary educational institution;

(4) the expected aggregate cost and cost per year incurred by an individual to obtain the degree from such postsecondary educational institution, including tuition, room and board, books and student fees;

(5) the aggregate degree investment incurred by an individual to obtain the degree from such postsecondary educational institution determined by subtracting the typical amount of grants and scholarships awarded for such degree from the aggregate cost;

(6) the median wage information of recent graduates from such degree program as reported by the state department of labor and any other state where data-sharing agreements governing the reporting of such information may be obtained upon entry into the workforce, and median wages after five years;

(7) the percentage of graduates who are employed in this state or any other state where data-sharing agreements governing the publication of such information may be obtained, within one year from entry into the workforce; and

(8) the number of years required to fully recoup the degree investment and typical loan debt incurred by an individual to obtain the degree from such postsecondary educational institution, at an annual interest rate set by the state board of regents which shall be the maximum federally guaranteed student interest rate showing the number of years necessary to fully recoup the degree investment, the monthly payment amount and percentage of earnings required to repay estimated loan commitments which correspond to the following number of years of repayment: 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years. The monthly payment amount shall be determined by dividing the median wage upon entry into the workforce by the corresponding number of years of repayment.

(c) The state board of regents shall:

(1) Make degree prospectus information readily available through a link on the state board of regents' official website; and

(2) update each degree prospectus at least once per year.

(d) Each postsecondary educational institution shall:

(1) Make degree prospectus information readily available through a link on such institution's official website homepage and on any web page dedicated to the promotion of a degree program, which shall be titled by the state board of regents and promoted statewide in a uniform manner at the direction of the state board of regents;

(2) promote degree prospectus information to each student who inquires about the degree program; and

(3) promote degree prospectus information whenever a hard copy of any written materials concerning the degree program are provided.

(e) The state board of regents shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

(f) As used in this section:

(1) "Postsecondary educational institution" means:

(A) For school year 2016-2017, any state educational institution and any municipal university; and

(B) for school year 2017-2018 and each school year thereafter, any state educational institution, municipal university, community college, technical college and institute of technology, and includes any entity resulting from the consolidation or affiliation of any two or more of such postsecondary educational institutions.

(2) "State educational institution," "municipal university," "community college," "technical college" and "institute of technology" mean the same as such terms are defined in K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments thereto.

New Sec. 2. (a) On or before January 1, 2017, the state board of regents shall adopt a

policy requiring state educational institutions to award the appropriate number of credit hours to any student enrolled in such institution who has successfully passed an exam administered through the college level examination program (CLEP) and received a credit-granting recommended score as outlined by the American council on education. Such policy shall include the following:

(1) The number of credit hours to be awarded shall be at least equivalent to the minimum number of credit hours granted for the equivalent course offered by the institution;

(2) an institution shall not limit the number of credit hours that may be awarded to a student beyond the limitations placed on such institution by such institution's regional accrediting agency;

(3) credit hours awarded for exams in the subject of the student's major course of study shall apply towards the student's degree program major course of study, and all other credit hours shall apply towards general degree requirements;

(4) credit hours for exams shall be listed on the student's transcript as pass/fail;

(5) all exams listed on a student's transcript shall be included on such transcript if the student transfers to a different postsecondary educational institution, and if the subsequent institution is a state educational institution, then the credit hours for such exams shall be applied in accordance with this section; and

(6) any other provisions related to the awarding of credit hours based on CLEP exam results deemed necessary by the board.

(b) Commencing July 1, 2017, each state educational institution shall award credit hours to enrolled students who have successfully passed a CLEP exam in accordance with the policy adopted by the board pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) As used in this section, the terms "state board of regents" and "state educational institution" shall have the same meaning as those terms are defined in K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 72-4490 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-4490. (a)

(1) Any eligible postsecondary educational institution may certify to the board of regents:

(A) The number of individuals who received a general educational development (GED) credential from such institution while enrolled in an eligible career technical education program;

(B) the number of individuals who received a career technical education credential from such institution; and

(C) the number of individuals who were enrolled in an eligible career technical education program at such institution and who are pursuing a general educational development (GED) credential.

(2) Certifications submitted pursuant to this subsection shall be submitted in such form and manner as prescribed by the board of regents, and shall include such other information as required by the board of regents.

(b) Each fiscal year, upon receipt of a certification submitted under subsection (a), the board of regents shall authorize payment to such eligible postsecondary educational institution from the postsecondary education performance-based incentives fund. The amount of any such payment shall be calculated based on the following:

(1) For each individual who has received a general educational development (GED) credential, \$500;

(2) for each individual who has received a career technical education credential, \$1,000; and

(3) for each individual enrolled in an eligible career technical education program who is pursuing a general educational development (GED) credential, \$170.

(c) That portion of any payment from the postsecondary education performance-based incentives fund that is made based on subsection (b)(2) shall be expended for scholarships for individuals enrolled in an eligible career technical education program and operating costs of eligible career technical education programs. Each eligible postsecondary educational institution shall prepare and submit a report to the board of regents which shall include the number of individuals who received scholarships, the aggregate amount of moneys expended for such scholarships and the number of those individuals who received a scholarship that also received a career technical education credential.

(d) (1) Of that portion of any payment from the postsecondary education performance-based incentives fund that is made based on subsection (b)(3), an amount equal to \$150 for each individual shall be expended by the eligible postsecondary educational institution for the general educational development (GED) test.

(2) If any individual enrolled in an eligible career technical education program for which an eligible postsecondary educational institution has received a payment under this section fails to take the general educational development (GED) test, then such institution shall notify the board of regents in writing that no such test was administered to the individual. For each such notification received, the board of regents shall deduct an amount equal to \$150 from such institution's subsequent incentive payment.

(e) All payments authorized by the board of regents pursuant to this section shall be subject to the limits of appropriations made for such purposes. If there are insufficient appropriations for the board of regents to authorize payments in accordance with the amounts set

forth in subsection (b), the board of regents shall prorate such amounts in accordance with appropriations made therefor.

(f) There is hereby created the postsecondary education performance-based incentives fund. Expenditures from the postsecondary education performance-based incentives fund shall be for the sole purpose of paying payments to eligible postsecondary educational institutions as authorized by the board of regents. All expenditures from the postsecondary education performance-based incentives fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the president of the board of regents, or the president's designee.

(g) As used in this section:

(1) "Board of regents" means the state board of regents provided for in the constitution of this state and established by K.S.A. 74-3202a, and amendments thereto.

(2) "Career technical education credential" means any industry-recognized technical certification or credential, other than a general educational development (GED) credential, or any technical certification or credential authorized by a state agency.

(3) "Eligible career technical education program" means a program operated by one or more eligible postsecondary educational institutions that is identified by the board of regents as a program that allows an enrollee to obtain a general educational development (GED) credential while pursuing a career technical education credential.

(4) "Eligible postsecondary educational institution" means any community college, technical college or the institute of technology at Washburn university, ~~except such term shall not include Johnson county community college.~~

(5) "State agency" means any state office, department, board, commission, institution,

bureau or any other state authority.";

On page 6, in line 29, after "Supp." by inserting "72-4490,";

And by renumbering sections accordingly;

On page 1, in the title, in line 1, after the semicolon by inserting "relating to degree program transparency; relating to credit hours; relating to postsecondary career technical education performance-based funding;"; in line 3, by striking all after the semicolon; by striking all in line 4; in line 5, by striking all before "amending"; also in line 5, after "Supp." by inserting "72-4490,";

And your committee on conference recommends the adoption of this report.

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Conferees on part of Senate

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Conferees on part of House