

## **Postsecondary Changes; HB 2622**

**HB 2622** amends the law concerning higher education. Specifically, the bill adds provisions concerning degree prospectus publication and the acceptance of College Level Examination Program (CLEP) credits. Additionally, the bill amends fees charged by the Kansas Board of Regents (Board) and funding of career technical education (CTE) performance-based incentives.

### ***Degree Prospectus***

The bill requires the Board to publish a degree prospectus for each undergraduate degree program offered by each postsecondary educational institution featuring information and statistics on the degree program. The information required in the degree prospectus includes a description of the degree; the average years taken to obtain the degree; the expected number of credit hours required to obtain the degree; the aggregate cost and cost per year incurred by an individual to obtain the degree; the aggregate degree investment incurred by an individual subtracting grants and scholarships awarded; the median wage of recent graduates from such degree program and median wages after five years; the percent of graduates who obtain the degree and become employed in the field from such institution; percentage of graduates who are employed within one year from entry into the workforce; and the number of years required to fully recoup the degree investment incurred by an individual.

The bill also requires the Board to make the degree prospectus information available on a link on its official website and requires each postsecondary educational institution to make such information available through a link on the home page of each institution's official website. The bill requires the degree prospectus information to be promoted on web pages dedicated to the promotion of a degree program, promoted to each student who inquires about the degree program, and promoted whenever a hard copy of materials concerning the degree program is provided.

The bill requires the degree prospectus information to be provided for any state education institution and municipal university for school year 2016-17 and all years thereafter and requires the information to be provided by community colleges, technical colleges, and institutes of technology for school year 2017-18 and all years thereafter.

The bill authorizes the Board to adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement these provisions.

### ***CLEP Credits***

The bill requires the Board to adopt a policy, on or before January 1, 2017, 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 CLEP and received a credit-granting recommended score as outlined by the American Council on Education. Commencing July 1, 2017, the bill requires each state educational institution to award credit hours to enrolled students who have successfully passed a CLEP exam in accordance with such policy. The bill requires the following to be included in the policy:

- The number of credit hours to be awarded will be at least equivalent to the minimum number of credit hours granted for the equivalent course offered by the institution;
- An institution will be prohibited from limiting the number of credit hours that may be awarded to a student beyond the limitations placed on such institution by its regional accrediting agency;
- Credit hours awarded for exams in the subject of the student's major course of study will apply to the student's degree program major course of study, and all other credit hours will apply to general degree requirements;
- Credit hours for exams will be listed on the student's transcripts as pass/fail;
- All exams listed on a student's transcript will 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, the credit hours for such exams will be applied in accordance with the bill's provisions; and
- Any other provisions related to the awarding of credit hours based on CLEP exam results deemed necessary by the Board.

The bill specifies "State Board of Regents" and "state educational institution" will have the same meanings as those terms are defined in the Kansas Higher Education Coordination Act.

### ***CTE Performance-Based Incentives***

The bill amends the postsecondary CTE performance-based incentive funding statute by adding Johnson County Community College to the definition of "eligible postsecondary educational institution."

### ***Fees Charged by the Board***

Finally, the bill amends the statute governing fees charged by the Board to amend the scope of fees assessed to institutions "domiciled" and having their principal place of business in Kansas, replacing "domiciled" with "chartered, incorporated or otherwise organized under the laws of Kansas."

The bill increases the fee charged by the Board for processing and issuing GED credentials from \$15 to \$25. Additionally, the bill reduces the minimum fees collected for Kansas institutions' application renewals, including branch campus site renewals, from \$800 to \$500 for non-degree-granting institutions and from \$1,600 to \$1,000 for degree-granting institutions. The deadline for submitting renewal applications changes to at least 60 days prior to expiration, and the late fee for application renewals increases from \$125 to \$500.

Out-of-state institution renewal fees decrease from \$2,400 to \$1,000 for non-degree-granting institutions and from \$3,000 to \$2,000 for degree-granting institutions.

The bill also repeals the statute creating the Advisory Commission on Private and Out-of-State Postsecondary Educational Institutions, as well as a statute limiting the amounts these institutions could collect prior to students receiving classroom instruction.