

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2228

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

HB 2228, as amended, would grant in-state tuition and fees to active duty military personnel, National Guard personnel, veterans, military spouses, and dependents who are enrolled in a post-secondary education institution and eligible to receive educational assistance under federal law granting such assistance to veterans, regardless of their length of residency in Kansas. In order to receive in-state tuition and fees, the person must be continuously enrolled and file a letter of intent to establish residency in Kansas.

Background

The House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security introduced the bill. Proponent testimony was offered by Representative Hutchins and representatives of the National Guard Association of Kansas, Military Officers Association of America, Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office, American Legion Department of Kansas, and Kansas Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars. Written proponent testimony was provided by the Kansas Board of Regents and Kansas Adjutant General's Department.

Proponents of the bill explained this change in law is necessary to make Kansas statutes compliant with requirements established in the Veterans Access Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, for state universities to provide in-state tuition and fees to certain veterans, spouses, and dependents. Under the Choice Act, states that do not comply

*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>

with the in-state tuition and fee requirements will lose federal GI Bill funding approval.

There was no neutral or opponent testimony provided.

The bill, as introduced, did not provide in-state tuition and fees to members of the National Guard. The House Committee amended the bill to provide National Guard service members in-state tuition and fees.

The House Committee of the Whole made a technical amendment to the bill to make its new provisions part of the Militia, Defense and Public Safety chapter of the *Kansas Statutes Annotated*.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, states the bill could reduce tuition revenue at state universities. Under current law, the state universities waived out-of-state tuition of \$5,390,592 for qualifying military persons and their families in 2014. The proposed law would cause the out-of-state tuition waiver to increase. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2016 Governor's Budget Report*.