

SESSION OF 2016

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 193**

As Recommended by House Committee on
Education

Brief*

House Sub. for SB 193 would require the Kansas Board of Regents 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 would include: 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 percentage 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 of the workforce; and the number of years required to fully recoup the degree investment incurred by an individual.

The bill also would require the Board of Regents to make the degree prospectus information available on a link on its official website and require each postsecondary educational institution to make such information available through a link on the home page of each institution's official website. The bill would require the degree prospectus information to be promoted on web pages dedicated to the

*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>

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 are provided.

The bill would require 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 would require the information to be provided by community colleges, technical colleges and institutes of technology for school year 2017-18 and all years thereafter.

Background

In the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, proponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Policy Institute. He stated the degree prospectus would allow students and their parents to make informed decisions on their investment in higher education.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative from the Board of Regents appreciating the spirit of the bill but stating the scope would require a major investment of human capital at each institution. He asked to work with the bill author(s) and legislative staff to revise the bill and address concerns in order to ensure complete and accurate information.

No opponent testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to add an additional data field of the aggregate degree investment incurred by an individual to obtain the degree by subtracting grants and scholarships awarded and to remove reference to "pay off student loans" and replace with "recoup degree investment." There also was a deletion of the word "required," in reference to average number of years to obtain the degree.

The Senate Committee of the Whole made a technical amendment to remove the use of “federal student loan” and instead insert “degree investment” to match all other references that were changed from “student loans” to “degree investment”. There also was an amendment adopted to change the date established in the statute from January 1, 2016, to July 1, 2016, for publication of the prospectus to allow the universities an additional six months to prepare the reports. The amendment also changed one of the required data sets to be published on the prospectus to graduates employed after six months, instead of three months.

The House Committee on Education recommended that a substitute bill be adopted. The substitute bill would direct that the Board of Regents create the degree prospectus information, rather than each educational institution.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, states the bill would increase costs for state universities, Washburn University, community colleges, and technical colleges by \$6.6 million. The cost of additional staff salary and benefits is estimated at \$2.0 million and \$272,600 for possible IT system enhancements for the data collection. Additionally, the fiscal note indicates the incentive payments allocated to graduates that provide information would potentially total \$4.3 million if all graduates were provided the incentive.

A revised fiscal note was prepared to provide a range of costs for the incentive payment if provided to between 25.0 and 75.0 percent of the graduates. This cost would range from between \$3.4 and \$5.5 million instead of the \$6.6 million estimate from the original fiscal note.

A fiscal note for the substitute bill was not immediately available.