

SESSION OF 2016

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 358

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Education

Brief*

SB 358 would amend definitions in the Nurse Educator Service Scholarship Program Act. The bill would add “accredited independent institution” to the definition of “School of nursing.” “Accredited independent institution” would be defined as a not-for-profit institution of higher education that has its main campus or principal place of operation in Kansas; is operated independently and not controlled or administered by the state; maintains open enrollment; and holds accreditation to grant a master of science or doctoral degree in nurse education or nursing administration from a national accrediting entity recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Further, the bill would define “open enrollment” as having the meaning found in KSA 2015 Supp. 74-32,120: the policy of an institution of higher education which provides the opportunity of enrollment for any student who meets its academic and other reasonable enrollment requirements, without regard for race, gender, religion, creed or national origin.

Background

At the Senate Education Committee hearing, the President of the Kansas Independent College Association testified in support of the bill. He stated including the independent colleges in the definition of school of nursing would increase participation in the scholarship program and

*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>

may increase the nurse educators available to meet critical nursing shortages.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to change “nursing” to “nurse education or nursing administration” in the definition of “accredited independent institution.”

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget states enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect.