

SESSION OF 2016

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 388

As Amended by House Committee on Education

Brief*

SB 388 would require the State Board of Regents (KBOR) 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 the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and received a credit-granting recommended score as outlined by the American Council on Education. Commencing July 1, 2017, the bill would require 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 would require the following to be included in the policy:

- The number of credit hours to be awarded would be at least equivalent to the minimum number of credit hours granted for the equivalent course offered by the institution;
- An institution would 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 would apply to the student's degree program major course of study, and all other credit hours would apply to general degree requirements;

*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>

- Credit hours for exams would be listed on the student's transcripts as pass/fail;
- All exams listed on a student's transcript would 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 would 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 KBOR.

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

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation. At the Senate Committee on Education hearing on the bill, a representative of Lumerit Education and a student offered testimony in support of the bill. A representative of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees offered written proponent testimony. Representatives of the KBOR and the Kansas Independent College Association offered neutral testimony. There was no opponent testimony.

The Senate Committee adopted amendments recommended by the KBOR to specify the student must have received a credit-granting recommended score for the institution to award credit; clarify the KBOR policy must include that the number of credit hours to be awarded must be "at least equivalent to" the minimum number of credit hours for the course, which would allow an institution to

award more than the minimum number of credit hours offered; add language to clarify the number of credit hours awarded would be the minimum number of credit hours “granted” for the “equivalent” course; and prohibit 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.

The House Committee on Education adopted a technical amendment.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget for the bill, as introduced, indicates enactment of the bill could reduce tuition revenues as students take the exams and do not take courses, but a precise estimate of the reduction in those revenues cannot be determined.