

Nursing Service Scholarship Program; SB 100

SB 100 amends statutes governing the Nursing Service Scholarship Program (Program) to give priority when awarding scholarships to a qualified applicant whose sponsor is a mental health or treatment facility. The bill defines “mental health or treatment facility” and amends the definition of “sponsor” to include mental health or treatment facilities. The bill also amends the definition of “school of nursing” to require that a school be under the control and supervision of the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR), a municipal university, or a not-for-profit independent institution of higher education that has its main campus or principal place of operation in Kansas, maintains open enrollment as that term is currently defined by statute, and is operated independently and not controlled or administered by the State or any agency or subdivision thereof.

The bill clarifies that a nursing student need not be a Kansas resident to qualify for a scholarship under the Program and that the scholarship cap of 70 percent of the cost of tuition is 70 percent of the cost of in-state tuition. The State will fully fund the amount of each scholarship awarded to an applicant whose sponsor is a mental health or treatment facility as opposed to sharing the cost with the sponsor.

Sponsorship by a scholarship recipient can be transferred from one sponsor to another as long as the agreement transferring such sponsorship provides for service in a mental health or treatment facility. Such a transfer already was allowed for agreements that provide for service in a rural area.

Finally, the bill requires KBOR to provide an annual report on the Program to the Senate and House Committees on Education.