SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 100

<u>As Amended by Senate Committee on Judiciary</u>

Brief*

SB 100, as amended, would amend 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 would define "mental health or treatment facility" and would amend the definition of "sponsor" to include mental health or treatment facilities. The bill would also amend 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 would specify a nursing student need not be a Kansas resident to qualify for a scholarship under the Program and scholarship caps imposed by current law of 70 percent of the cost of tuition would be 70 percent of the cost of in-state tuition. The State would 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.

The bill would allow sponsorship by a scholarship recipient to be transferred from one sponsor to another as long as the agreement transferring such sponsorship

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provides for service in a mental health or treatment facility. Such a transfer is allowed under current law for agreements that provide for service in a rural area.

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

Background

The bill was introduced by Senator Baumgardner. In the Senate Committee on Education hearing, representatives of the KBOR, the Kansas Department on Aging and Disability Services, the Kansas Independent College Association (KICA), Benedictine College, Hesston College, and the Valley Hope Association offered testimony in support of the bill. The KBOR representative provided information about the Program, which KBOR administers and is intended to reduce the impact of nurse shortages, particularly in rural areas of Kansas. Any student seeking a nursing scholarship must locate a sponsor who will pay up to half of the scholarship stipend and agree to employ the scholarship recipient within six months of licensure. The award is need-based only if there are more eligible applicants than available funding. Recipients agree to provide one year of nursing service to the sponsor for each year of scholarship support. If they do not serve, recipients must repay the scholarship amount with interest. The proponents highlighted a tremendous need for nurses in mental health and treatment facilities. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to specify nursing students need not be Kansas residents to be eligible for a scholarship under this Program and scholarship caps would be 70 percent of the cost of in-state tuition.

In the House Committee on Education hearing, representatives of the Kansas Association of Community Mental Health Centers, KBOR, KICA, Benedictine College, and Hesston College offered testimony in support of the bill. No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee recommended the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the Board of Regents indicates any additional scholarships awards that may be required from the enactment of the bill, as introduced, could be funded within existing appropriations.