

SESSION OF 2019

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2144

As Amended by House Committee on Education

Brief*

HB 2144 would amend law related to community college student fees and enact the Community College Taxpayer Transparency Act.

The bill would include findings and conclusions generally noting the structure and financing of community colleges; the duty of transparency owed by community colleges to property taxpayers and students of community colleges; and reaffirming the students and taxpayers of community colleges as the priority in financial decisions, reporting processes, and transparency measures of community colleges.

Student Fees

The bill would require any student fees to be charged for a specific purpose and that purpose specified on billing statements. Revenues from student fees would be allowed to be spent only for the specified purpose of the fee.

Community College Taxpayer Transparency Act

The bill would require community colleges to identify the courses that are fully transferable to four-year colleges governed by the Kansas Board of Regents and prominently specify those courses on the community college's website and on the Kansas Board of Regents' website.

*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>

The bill also would require community colleges to publish certain information to the community college's website under an easily identifiable link titled "Taxpayer and student transparency data." Information required would include:

- Tuition rates for students residing in the community college district, in-state students residing outside the community college district, out-of-state students, and international students;
- Fees charged to students residing in the community college district, in-state students residing outside the community college district, out-of-state students, and international students;
- Total cost per credit hour, excluding housing and textbooks, for students residing in the community college district, in-state students residing outside the community college district, out-of-state students, and international students;
- The percent of students attending each campus of the community college of students residing in the community college district, in-state students residing outside the community college district, out-of-state students, and international students;
- The enrollment percentage of students residing inside and outside of the community college district;
- The enrollment percentage of students residing in the service area of the community college;
- The aggregate amount of property tax revenues and mills levied by the community college for each of the preceding five fiscal years and the annual percent change; and

- The aggregate amount budgeted for the two immediately preceding fiscal years for institutional scholarships, in terms of athletic and non-athletic scholarships, for students residing in the community college district and students residing outside the state.

Background

The bill was introduced by Representative Williams. In the House Committee on Education hearing, Representative Williams and a representative of the Kansas Association of Realtors testified in support of the bill. Written-only testimony in support of the bill was offered by the Butler County Board of Commissioners, the Kansas Policy Institute, and three private citizens.

A representative of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees testified in opposition to the bill. There was no other testimony.

The House Committee amended the bill on February 21 to remove provisions that would have required publication of certain items in local newspapers and provided for certain protest petition processes. The House Committee also amended the bill to remove provisions that would have amended statutes related to reduction of community college tax levies upon increased state aid to community colleges and community college student residency.

On February 25, the House Committee amended the bill to require the list of transferable courses to be published on the Kansas Board of Regents' website; eliminate a requirement that the name of the county with the largest number of students who are enrolled in the community college, but reside outside of the community college district, be published; and to limit the scholarship information required to be published to information on scholarships provided by the institution.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Kansas Board of Regents indicates enactment of the bill would increase administrative costs of community colleges. A fiscal note on the amended bill was not immediately available.