

**SENATE BILL No. 579**

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

4-28

1 AN ACT concerning education; relating to scholarship programs;  
2 establishing the homegrown Kansas leadership scholarship program;  
3 providing scholarships for individuals seeking a teaching degree or  
4 master's degree in education.

5  
6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 Section 1. (a) Section 1 et seq., and amendments thereto, shall be  
8 known and may be cited as the homegrown Kansas leadership scholarship  
9 act.

10 (b) As used in the homegrown Kansas leadership scholarship act:

11 (1) "Qualified student" means a person who:

12 (A) Is a resident of Kansas; and

13 (B) (i) has been accepted for admission to or is enrolled in a course of  
14 instruction leading to licensure as a teacher; or

15 (ii) is a licensed teacher who has been accepted for admission to, or is  
16 enrolled in, a course of instruction leading to a master's degree in the field  
17 of education.

18 (2) "State educational institution" means the same as defined in  
19 K.S.A. 76-711, and amendments thereto.

20 Sec. 2. (a) There is hereby established the homegrown Kansas  
21 leadership scholarship program. Such program shall be administered by  
22 the state board of regents.

23 (b) The state board of regents shall adopt rules and regulations to  
24 implement and administer the homegrown Kansas leadership scholarship  
25 program and establish terms, conditions and obligations incorporated into  
26 the agreement entered into pursuant to section 4, and amendments thereto.  
27 The terms, conditions and obligations shall be consistent with this act and  
28 include, but not be limited to, the circumstances under which eligibility for  
29 financial assistance under the program may be terminated, discharged or  
30 forgiven, the amount of money required to be repaid because of a failure to  
31 satisfy the obligations under such agreement and the method of repayment.

32 (c) A homegrown Kansas leadership scholarship may be awarded to  
33 any qualified student and may be renewed for each student who remains  
34 qualified for the scholarship. A qualified student who receives a  
35 scholarship shall remain qualified for renewal of the scholarship if such  
36 student remains in good standing and makes satisfactory progress toward

1 completion of the requirements of the course of instruction in which such  
2 student is enrolled.

3 (d) Subject to appropriations, the amount of each scholarship shall be  
4 80% of the cost of tuition for each semester that the qualified student is  
5 enrolled a course of instruction leading to teacher licensure or a master's  
6 degree in education.

7 (e) If a student is not enrolled on a full-time basis, a student shall  
8 complete the course of instruction within the time period specified in the  
9 scholarship agreement and shall receive a proportionate amount of the  
10 scholarship allowed under subsection (d) based upon the number of hours  
11 enrolled in an academic period and computed as a fraction of the total  
12 number of credit hours required for full-time enrollment.

13 Sec. 3. (a) An applicant for an award of a homegrown Kansas  
14 leadership scholarship shall apply for such scholarship on a form and in a  
15 manner determined by the state board of regents.

16 (b) As a condition of receiving a scholarship under this act, an  
17 applicant shall enter into an agreement with the state board of regents or  
18 the state board's designee. Such agreement shall require each applicant  
19 who receives a homegrown Kansas leadership scholarship to:

20 (1) Complete the required course of instruction as specified in the  
21 agreement;

22 (2) obtain and maintain necessary licensure as specified in the  
23 agreement;

24 (3) commence teaching or continue teaching on a full-time basis in  
25 Kansas in an accredited public or private elementary or secondary school  
26 within six months after licensure or earning a master's degree in  
27 accordance with the agreement and continue teaching on a full-time basis  
28 for a period of time as follows:

29 (A) At least five years for an applicant accepted for admission to, or  
30 enrolled in, a course of instruction leading to licensure as a teacher; and

31 (B) at least four years for an applicant who is a licensed teacher who  
32 has been accepted for admission to, or is enrolled in, a course of  
33 instruction leading to a master's degree in the field of education;

34 (4) maintain records and make reports to the state board of regents as  
35 required by the state board to document the satisfaction of the obligations  
36 under this act and the agreement; and

37 (5) upon failure to satisfy an agreement to engage in teaching as  
38 specified in the agreement and for the required period of time under such  
39 agreement, repay to the state amounts as provided in section 4, and  
40 amendments thereto.

41 Sec. 4. (a) (1) Except as otherwise specified in the agreement, an  
42 obligation under any agreement entered into under the homegrown Kansas  
43 leadership scholarship program shall be postponed during any period of

1 time due to:

2 (A) Required active military service;

3 (B) temporary medical disability to teach;

4 (C) job-protected leave under the federal family and medical leave act  
5 of 1993; or

6 (D) a determination by the state board of regents that the qualified  
7 student is unable to teach because of special circumstances.

8 (2) Except for a postponement provided for in subparagraphs (B), (C)  
9 and (D), an obligation under an agreement entered into as provided in this  
10 act shall not be postponed for more than five years from the time the  
11 obligation was to commence under such agreement. An obligation  
12 postponed under subparagraph (B) shall be postponed during the period of  
13 time the medical disability exists. An obligation postponed under  
14 subparagraph (C) shall be postponed during the period of time the  
15 qualified student remains on federal family and medical leave act leave.  
16 An obligation postponed under subparagraph (D) shall be postponed  
17 during the period of time the state board of regents determines that the  
18 special circumstance exists.

19 (b) An obligation under any agreement entered into as provided in  
20 this act shall be satisfied if the qualified student:

21 (1) Satisfies the requirements of the agreement;

22 (2) is unable to satisfy the requirements due to the permanent  
23 disability or death of the qualified student;

24 (3) fails to satisfy the requirements of the agreement after making the  
25 best possible effort to do so as determined by the state board of regents;

26 (4) fails to satisfy the requirements for licensure to teach in Kansas or  
27 has been denied licensure after applying for a license to teach and making  
28 the best effort possible to obtain such license; or

29 (5) is unable to obtain employment or continue in employment after  
30 making the best possible effort to do so.

31 (c) Except as provided in this section, upon the failure of any person  
32 to satisfy the obligation under any agreement entered into under this act,  
33 the person shall pay to the state board of regents an amount equal to the  
34 total amount of moneys received by such person pursuant to such  
35 agreement plus accrued interest at a rate that is equivalent to the interest  
36 rate applicable to loans made under the federal PLUS program at the time  
37 such person first entered into an agreement. The amount of payment under  
38 this section shall be adjusted proportionately for full years of the  
39 obligation that have been satisfied. Installment payments of such amount  
40 may be made in accordance with the provisions of the agreement entered  
41 into by the person or, if no such provisions exist in such agreement, in  
42 accordance with rules and regulations of the state board of regents, except  
43 that such installment payments shall commence six months after the date

1 of the action or circumstances that caused such person to fail to satisfy the  
2 obligations of such agreement as determined by the state board of regents  
3 based upon the circumstances of each individual case. Any amount paid to  
4 the state board of regents under this section shall be deposited in the  
5 homegrown Kansas leadership scholarship fund in accordance with section  
6 5, and amendments thereto.

7 (d) The state board of regents is authorized to turn over any  
8 repayment account arising under this act to a designated loan servicer or  
9 collection agency. The state shall not be involved in such action other than  
10 to receive payments from the loan servicer or collection agency at the  
11 interest rate prescribed in this section.

12 Sec. 5. There is hereby established in the state treasury the  
13 homegrown Kansas leadership scholarship fund, which shall be  
14 administered by the state board of regents. All expenditures from the  
15 homegrown Kansas leadership scholarship fund shall be for scholarships  
16 awarded pursuant to the homegrown Kansas leadership scholarship  
17 program. All expenditures from the homegrown Kansas leadership  
18 scholarship fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon  
19 warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to  
20 vouchers approved by the state board of regents. All moneys received by  
21 the state board of regents pursuant to this act shall be deposited in the state  
22 treasury in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and  
23 amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state  
24 treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit  
25 of the homegrown Kansas leadership scholarship fund.

26 Sec. 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
27 publication in the statute book.