

SESSION OF 2021

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE
BILL NO. 2094**

As Recommended by House Committee on
Appropriations

Brief*

Sub. for HB 2094 would amend a statute that established tuition waiver grants of the State Board of Regents (State Board) for dependents and spouses of public safety officers and those who died in or as a result of military service on or after September 11, 2001.

The bill would add eligibility for dependents and spouses of public safety officers injured or disabled while performing duties as a public safety officer and dependents and spouses of those entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability of at least 80 percent as a result of injuries or accidents sustained in combat after September 11, 2001. The bill would add a definition of "public safety employee" to include employees of a law enforcement office, fire department, emergency medical services provider, or state correctional institution and add public safety employees to the definition of "public safety officer."

Subject to appropriations, any Kansas educational institution which enrolls without charge of tuition or fees any dependent or spouse of a public safety officer could file a claim with the State Board for reimbursement of the amount of such tuition and fees. The bill would cap total reimbursement for tuition reimbursements in any fiscal year, at \$350,000.

*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>

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Appropriations at the request of Representative Waymaster.

House Committee on Appropriations

In the House Committee hearing, representatives of the Kansas State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and United WE provided **proponent** testimony, stating the bill is important to help the spouses and dependents of those public safety officers that are injured or die in the line of duty.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill by removing the contents and inserting the current language of KSA 75-4364 relating to existing tuition waivers. The House Committee then added specific language for the public safety officers and military personnel, expanding educational benefits for spouses and dependents of such officers and personnel who are injured while performing service-related duties. The House Committee further amended the bill to cap tuition and fees reimbursement at \$350,000 in any fiscal year. The House Committee then recommended the contents as a substitute bill.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill as introduced, the State Board estimates enactment of the bill would increase annual expenditures from the State General Fund by \$232,350 beginning in FY 2022 for students' tuition required fees and books. (The bill as introduced would have included provisions similar to those described above regarding tuition grants for survivors of wartime veterans and first responders.) Any fiscal

effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in
The 2022 Governor's Budget Report.

State Board of Regents; higher education; scholarships