

**Senate Ways and Means Committee
Proponent Testimony of SB 481**

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Good morning, Chair Billinger and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on SB 481.

SB 481 proposes to alter the legal name of the Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus to Kansas State University – Salina. The bill also updates language in the statute to better reflect the mission and educational offerings of the Salina campus.

In 1991, the Kansas College of Technology, a two-year technical institution located in Salina, Kansas, merged with Kansas State University. The statutory language at that time was crafted to preserve the institution's budgetary process and contributions toward advancing the state's workforce efforts in technical education, specifically in the aviation and technology-related industries.

The name change to Kansas State University – Salina brings the institution in line with the naming conventions utilized by the university when referencing its multi-campus structure. These adjustments also align internal budget processes by removing the language that designates the campus as a separate state agency, while clarifying that a separate line item in the state budget will still be maintained. Given the rapid expansion of the aviation industry to include the use of UAS/drone technology, the campus's need for insurance coverage extends beyond the operation of crewed aircraft used in professional pilot training. The proposed changes accommodate this expansion.

Further, the language is amended to define the areas of technical education the Salina campus offers. Previously, the language included program offerings available at the time of the merger. These changes tidy up the language and preempt the need for future adjustments by indicating that programs will align with specific needs within the industry sectors our mission obliges us to serve.

We will also be bringing forward an amendment focusing on section four of the bill. As we have been working through the details of making these updates, we recognize the need to have more conversations about these provisions before making any changes to state statute.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.