

## Substitute for HOUSE BILL No. 2414

By Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

3-13

1 AN ACT concerning private and public postsecondary educational  
2 institutions; relating to the development of postsecondary engineering  
3 programs and the provision of scholarships for engineering students at  
4 certain private and public institutions of higher education; creating a  
5 matching grant program to be administered by the secretary of  
6 commerce; creating the engineering graduate incentive fund.

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8 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

9 Section 1. As used in this section and section 2, and amendments  
10 thereto:

11 (a) "Eligible institution of higher education" means:

12 (1) (A) A state educational institution as defined in K.S.A. 76-711,  
13 and amendments thereto; or

14 (B) any private, independent college with its primary location in  
15 Kansas that is a member of the Kansas independent college association as  
16 of July 1, 2023; and

17 (2) that has an engineering program accredited by the accreditation  
18 board for engineering and technology.

19 (b) "Engineering program" or "accredited engineering program"  
20 means an engineering program accredited by the accreditation board for  
21 engineering and technology and includes, but is not limited to, a program  
22 in computer engineering or computer science.

23 (c) "Qualified eligible institution of higher education" means an  
24 eligible institution of higher education that has certified to the secretary  
25 that, in the immediately preceding academic year, at least the following  
26 number of students have graduated with baccalaureate degrees from an  
27 engineering program or programs with respect to each institution:

28 (1) Kansas state university, 586 graduates;

29 (2) university of Kansas, 419 graduates;

30 (3) Wichita state university, 360 graduates;

31 (4) any other state educational institution as defined in K.S.A. 76-  
32 711, and amendments thereto, with an accredited engineering program,  
33 one or more graduates; and

34 (5) private, independent colleges, one or more graduates.

35 (d) "Secretary" means the secretary of commerce.

36 Sec. 2. (a) There is hereby created in the state treasury the

1 engineering graduate incentive fund. The secretary of commerce shall  
2 administer the fund. All expenditures from the fund shall be for the  
3 purpose of promoting the development of accredited postsecondary  
4 engineering programs in Kansas by providing grants that shall be matched  
5 on a \$1-for-\$1 basis with funds from nonstate sources to qualified eligible  
6 institutions of higher education for:

7 (1) Awarding scholarships to undergraduate students enrolled at such  
8 institutions in an engineering program;

9 (2) recruiting undergraduate students for engineering programs  
10 offered by such institutions;

11 (3) expanding the number of potential engineering students through  
12 engineering-related activities in secondary schools in Kansas;

13 (4) funding internships for undergraduate students enrolled at such  
14 institutions in an engineering program;

15 (5) making necessary facility improvements or equipment purchases  
16 to expand engineering program course offerings; or

17 (6) hiring additional faculty or enhancing faculty salaries in such an  
18 institution's engineering program.

19 (b) Applications for matching grants shall be made by eligible  
20 institutions of higher education to the secretary in the form and manner  
21 required by the secretary. If the secretary determines the institution is a  
22 qualified eligible institution of higher education, finds the institution has  
23 sufficient nonstate funding to match the grant requested on a \$1-for-\$1  
24 basis and approves the application, the qualified eligible institution of  
25 higher education shall receive a matching grant. If sufficient moneys are  
26 available in the engineering graduate incentive fund to fully fund all  
27 approved applications, the amount of the matching grant shall be at least  
28 \$20,000 for each graduate of an engineering program of the institution  
29 during the immediately preceding academic year, as determined by the  
30 secretary, in excess of the threshold requirement for qualification as a  
31 qualified eligible institution of higher education pursuant to section 1, and  
32 amendments thereto. If sufficient moneys are not available in the  
33 engineering graduate incentive fund to fully fund all approved applications  
34 in an amount of at least \$20,000 for each such graduate, the secretary shall  
35 award grants in a prorated amount so that all approved applicant qualified  
36 eligible educational institutions receive the same amount of grant money  
37 for a graduate in excess of such respective threshold. The secretary shall  
38 consult with and coordinate with eligible institutions of higher education,  
39 qualified eligible institutions of higher education, the state board of  
40 regents, or private industry in planning and developing uses for matching  
41 grant funding to achieve the purpose of this act.

42 (c) Qualified eligible institutions of higher education that receive a  
43 matching grant shall provide such information as requested by the

1 secretary, excluding any information confidential under state or federal  
2 law, regarding the use of grant funds. On or before January 10, 2024, and  
3 on or before the first day of each regular session of the legislature  
4 thereafter, the secretary shall provide a written report to the house of  
5 representatives standing committee on commerce, labor and economic  
6 development, or its successor committee, and the senate standing  
7 committee on commerce, or its successor committee, on the amount and  
8 uses of grant funding by each qualified eligible educational institution of  
9 higher education that has received a matching grant and progress made  
10 toward the goal of this act.

11 (d) All expenditures from the engineering graduate fund shall be for  
12 the purposes described in subsection (a) and shall be made in accordance  
13 with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and  
14 reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the secretary of  
15 commerce or the secretary's designee.

16 (e) No moneys appropriated to the engineering graduate incentive  
17 fund shall be expended for the acquisition or construction of any facilities.

18 (f) (1) On July 1, 2023, or as soon thereafter as moneys are available,  
19 the director of accounts and reports shall transfer \$1,500,000 from the state  
20 general fund to the engineering graduate fund.

21 (2) On July 1, 2024, and on each July 1 thereafter, the secretary shall  
22 certify to the director of accounts and reports the amount of moneys  
23 expended for grants from the engineering graduate fund in the prior fiscal  
24 year. Upon receipt of such certification, or as soon thereafter as moneys  
25 are available, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer from the  
26 state general fund to the engineering graduate fund an amount equal to  
27 twice the amount certified by the secretary of commerce, except that if  
28 such transfer would result in an unencumbered balance in the engineering  
29 graduate fund of greater than \$5,000,000, the director of accounts and  
30 reports shall transfer the amount of moneys that shall result in an  
31 unencumbered balance of \$5,000,000 in the engineering graduate fund on  
32 such date.

33 Sec. 3. The provisions of sections 1 through 3, and amendments  
34 thereto, shall expire on July 1, 2033. On July 1, 2033, the director of  
35 accounts and reports shall transfer all unencumbered moneys in the  
36 engineering graduate fund to the state general fund. After such transfer, the  
37 engineering graduate fund shall be abolished. Upon abolishment of such  
38 fund, all liabilities of the engineering graduate fund shall be transferred to  
39 and imposed on the state general fund.

40 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
41 publication in the statute book.