

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2539

As Amended by House Committee on Education

Brief*

HB 2539, as amended, would make several changes to the residency requirements of and update a definition within the Kansas Promise Scholarship Act.

Residency Requirements

The bill would change the eligibility requirements for a student to apply for and receive a scholarship by removing the following requirements:

- Have graduated from an accredited Kansas public or private high school;
- Attend an accredited Kansas public or private high school and have obtained a high school equivalency certificate;
- Have been a resident of Kansas for three or more consecutive years at the time of application for the scholarship; and
- Be a dependent child of a military servicemember permanently stationed in another state and who graduated from any out-of-state high school within the last 12 years.

The continuing eligibility requirements for the scholarship would require the individual to be a U.S. citizen;

*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>

be a resident of Kansas; to have graduated, completed graduation requirements, or obtained a high school equivalency certificate from a secondary school within the preceding 12 months; or to have been in the custody of the Secretary for Children and Families at any time while attending high school in Kansas.]

The bill would also remove the requirement from the scholarship agreements between the scholarship recipients and the Kansas Board of Regents that the recipients be a resident of Kansas for the two years they are required to work in the state following completion of their program of study.

Other Provisions

The bill would expand the definition of “part-time student” to include a student who is enrolled in a five-credit hour certification program.

The bill would also clarify that all scholarship award amounts would be the aggregate amount of the tuition, required fees, and the cost of books and required materials for a Kansas resident.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Education at the request of Representative Thomas.

House Committee on Education

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of Cowley County Community College and the Wichita Chamber of Commerce. The proponents generally stated that the Promise Scholarship Program was not currently utilizing all of its funding appropriated, so the removal of the residency requirement could both allow for increased utilization of the program and help develop the state's workforce.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas Association of Community Colleges, Kansas Hospital Association, and Kansas Independent College Association.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Board of Regents (Board). The conferee indicated that the Board had no position on the removal of residency requirements, but noted that if they were, the Board would seek guidance on how to prioritize the awarding of scholarships if submitted applications were in excess of the \$10.0 million appropriation. The Board conferee also stated that, should the bill pass, it would need additional FTEs to administer the program.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Restore a requirement to be a Kansas resident into the program's eligibility requirements;
- Remove eligibility requirements pertaining to where an individual graduated high school, that the individual be a resident of Kansas for three or more consecutive years, or that the individual be a dependent of a military servicemember; and
- Clarify that the calculation of a scholarship award would be based upon the aggregate tuition,

required fees, and the cost of books and required materials for a Kansas resident.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Board estimates that the bill would require additional expenditures of \$80,000 and 1.0 FTE for FY 2025, \$82,000 and 1.0 FTE for FY 2026, and \$85,000 and 1.0 FTE for FY 2027. The Board stated the additional expenditures and FTE would be for the additional administration volume created by making five-credit certification programs eligible for Promise Act scholarships. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

Education; postsecondary; Kansas Promise Scholarship Act; Kansas Board of Regents; colleges; residency; scholarships