

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 438

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

SB 438, as amended, would eliminate the requirement to subtract other aid from the state payment in the Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas (AO-K) Program.

The bill would allow all students in an AO-K Program to receive the AO-K assistance benefit, rather than only those pursuing high school equivalency.

The bill would also limit the payment provided for each student to no more than \$500 over the lifetime of the student.

[*Note:* Continuing law defines the AO-K program as a career pathways program model that assists students in obtaining a high school equivalency, becoming ready for transferable college-level courses and earning an industry credential.]

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Education at the request of Senator Dietrich on behalf of the State Board of Regents.

*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>

Senate Committee on Education

In the Senate Committee hearing on February 14, 2024, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the Goodwill Industries of Kansas and the State Board of Regents (State Board). The proponents generally indicated the bill would ensure that all AO-K students are eligible for the state payment, up to \$500 per student per institution over their lifetime. According to testimony, in the last fiscal year, Goodwill Industries of Kansas paid \$11,931 out of pocket for these required student materials.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee adopted a technical amendment to specify that all students enrolled in an AO-K program shall have reasonable access to all available student resources of the adult education program, participating technical or community colleges, and the appropriate community partners.

House Committee on Education

In the House Committee hearing on March 20, 2024, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the State Board. The proponent's testimony was substantially similar to that provided to the Senate Committee on Education.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a representative of Goodwill Industries.

No other testimony was provided.

House Committee of the Whole

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to change its effective date to upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the State Board is unable to estimate exact funding that would be needed for additional students and to pay for books, tools, or other required materials. According to the State Board, Goodwill Industries of Kansas estimates up to 350 students could take advantage of the assistance that do not currently do so, which is estimated to cost \$175,000 in FY 2025. The Board states the \$175,000 estimated increase could be covered within existing resources. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report.

AO-K; accelerating opportunity: Kansas; postsecondary education