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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Kansas Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: March 12, 2024
Subject: HB 2567—Kansas National Guard Education Master’s for Enhanced Readiness and Global Excellence (EMERGE) Program

House Bill 2567 as amended by House Committee would establish the Kansas National Guard Education Master’s for Enhanced Readiness and Global Excellence (EMERGE) Program to provide tuition and fee assistance for members of the Kansas National Guard who are enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution to obtain a degree.

The EMERGE program is structured very similar to the existing Kansas National Guard Educational Assistance Program, K.S.A. 74-32,149 et seq. The primary differences between the two programs are that the EMERGE program participants must be working toward obtaining a master’s degree and participation is limited to only those members who are selected for the program by the adjutant general.

HB 2567 would authorize the adjutant general to select up to 100 members of the Kansas National Guard each year for participation in the EMERGE program. However, there could only be up to 200 participants in any one year. Participants in the program would receive tuition and fee financial assistance for up to 15 credit hours taken each semester that are required for the participant’s master’s degree program. Each participant would be required to complete the free application for federal student aid. The participant’s assistance amount under the program would be reduced by the amount of other federal or institutional tuition assistance received by the participant. The participant’s master’s degree program would be required to be at either a state educational institution, Washburn University or a private accredited college or university.

To remain eligible for participation in the program, the participant must:

- Remain in good standing at the institution where such participant is enrolled;

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- Make satisfactory progress toward completion of the master’s degree program;
- Maintain a grade point average of at least 2.75; and
- Maintain satisfactory participation in the Kansas National Guard.

HB 2567 would also require participants to actively serve in good standing in the Kansas National Guard for 48 months after completing the final semester of their master’s degree program. If the participant fails to satisfy this requirement, the participant would be required to repay a portion of the financial assistance depending on the amount of time the participant did not serve as required. The failure to serve may be excused by the Kansas National Guard for extenuating circumstances or extreme hardship.

HB 2567 would take effect on July 1, 2024, upon publication in the statute book.