

HOUSE BILL No. 2640

By Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

Requested by Fred Patton on behalf of the Kansas Board of Regents

1-31

1 AN ACT concerning research at Kansas public postsecondary educational
2 institutions; creating the Kansas strategic research act; establishing the
3 Kansas strategic research fund; making transfers to such fund;
4 prescribing guidelines for the expenditure of moneys credited thereto
5 and the powers, duties and functions of the state board of regents;
6 requiring annual reports to certain committees of the legislature.
7

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

9 Section 1. (a) Sections 1 through 5, and amendments thereto, shall be
10 known and may be cited as the Kansas strategic research act.

11 (b) The purpose of the Kansas strategic research act is to increase and
12 improve research capacity at Kansas public postsecondary educational
13 institutions for the benefit of the Kansas economy.

14 (c) As used in the Kansas strategic research act, "eligible institution"
15 means a state educational institution as defined by K.S.A. 76-711, and
16 amendments thereto, or Washburn university of Topeka.

17 Sec. 2. There is hereby established in the state treasury the Kansas
18 strategic research fund, which shall be administered by the state board of
19 regents. All expenditures from the Kansas strategic research fund shall be
20 for grants to eligible institutions. Each grant shall require a match of non-
21 state moneys on a \$1-for-\$1 basis from the eligible institution. All
22 expenditures from the Kansas strategic research fund shall be made in
23 accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of
24 accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the chief
25 executive officer of the state board of regents or the designee of the chief
26 executive officer.

27 Sec. 3. (a) On July 1, 2024, July 1, 2025, July 1, 2026, July 1, 2027,
28 July 1, 2028, July 1, 2029, July 1, 2030, July 1, 2031, July 1, 2032, and
29 July 1, 2033, or as soon thereafter as moneys are available, the director of
30 accounts and reports shall transfer \$10,000,000 from the state general fund
31 to the Kansas strategic research fund.

32 (b) In each fiscal year in which moneys are authorized to be expended
33 from the Kansas strategic research fund of the state board of regents, the
34 board shall award grants to eligible institutions.

35 (c) Any eligible institution that desires to receive grant funds in any

1 fiscal year shall develop and submit to the board of regents a plan detailing
2 the institution's proposed use of grant and matching funds, together with
3 the institution's explanation of how the proposed use meets the
4 requirements of subsection (d) and any further requirements imposed by
5 the board consistent with the purpose of this act. Plans shall be submitted
6 at times and upon forms designated by the chief executive officer of the
7 board of regents.

8 (d) Each eligible institution shall use all grant funds it receives and
9 the required matching funds to recruit and retain research faculty. In
10 expending the funds, the eligible institution shall give priority to recruiting
11 or retaining faculty whose research is in areas aligned with the economic
12 development strategies of the state department of commerce or whose
13 research relates to high-demand industries. Faculty experience, faculty
14 performance record and potential economic impact on the state shall also
15 be considered.

16 (e) The decision to award funds to any eligible institution and the
17 amount of any such award shall be within the board's discretion.

18 Sec. 4. Beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, in each
19 fiscal year in which moneys are authorized to be expended from the
20 Kansas strategic research fund of the state board of regents, the board of
21 regents shall submit a report on the Kansas strategic research act's
22 effectiveness in increasing and improving research capacity at eligible
23 institutions. The report shall be submitted on or before the first day of the
24 regular session of the legislature following the end of such fiscal year to
25 the house of representatives committee on commerce, labor and economic
26 development, the house of representatives committee on higher education
27 budget, the house of representatives committee on education, the senate
28 committee on commerce and the senate committee on education.

29 Sec. 5. The provisions of sections 1 through 4, and amendments
30 thereto, shall expire on July 1, 2034.

31 Sec. 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
32 publication in the statute book.