

SESSION OF 2013

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 22

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Education

Brief*

SB 22 would postpone the termination date of the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority and its statutory functions. The current termination date is June 30, 2014; the bill would extend this date by three years, to June 30, 2017.

Background

In 2007, the Legislature enacted Senate Sub. for HB 2256. Among the bill's provisions were four new sections (later numbered as KSA 72-4481 through 72-4484), which established the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority and set its powers and duties.

The Authority consists of 12 members, appointed under specified geographic, party, and career representation guidelines, by the following individuals or entities:

- Four by the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR), two of whom are KBOR members or their designees, one who is a representative of the community colleges that provide technical education or that person's designee, and one who is a representative of the technical colleges or that person's designee;

*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>

- Three appointed by the Governor, one of whom represents Kansas business and industry, and two of whom represent the public;
- One each appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, both representing business and industry; and
- The Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Labor, or their designee(s), who serve as *ex officio* members.

According to KSA 72-4482, the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority has the delegated authority from KBOR to coordinate statewide planning for postsecondary technical education, new postsecondary technical education programs, and contract training. Among its other statutory duties, the Authority is required to develop and advocate, annually, a policy agenda for postsecondary technical education; conduct studies as to the best use of related resources; conduct studies to develop strategies and programs for meeting business and industry needs; make recommendations in related areas to KBOR and the Legislature; coordinate the development of a seamless technical education system between secondary and postsecondary schools; and develop and recommend to KBOR a credit hour funding distribution formula that is designed around several statutorily-specified program goals. The statute also requires the appointment of a vice-president of workforce development who serves as the executive director of the Authority at the pleasure of KBOR. KSA 72-4483 requires KBOR to provide staff, facilities and other assistance to the Authority.

Proponents appearing at the Senate Education Committee hearing included the President and CEO of KBOR, a Senior Vice-President of St. Luke's Health System who also serves as Chairperson of the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority, and the President of the Kansas Association of Technical Colleges. Favorable written testimony was provided by representatives

of the Kansas Association for Career and Technical Education, the Kansas Energy Workforce Development Consortium, the Kansas Chamber, Westar Energy, and several private businesses. Proponents cited the Authority's role in ensuring that technical college curricula meet industry standards across the state, making graduates more marketable by providing the opportunity for students to obtain the necessary workforce credentials, evaluating program quality, developing a program-based funding mechanism, and conducting several other related activities.

No neutral or opposing testimony was offered.

According to the Division of the Budget fiscal note, continuation of the Authority would require approximately \$680,000 annually from the State General Fund for ongoing expenditures, beginning in FY 2015. Those expenditures not only include support for the Authority itself, but also provide for technical education administration in general. The bill's fiscal effect is not reflected in *The FY 2014 Governor's Budget Report*.