

KANSAS OFFICE of
REVISOR of STATUTES

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300 SW TENTH AVENUE • SUITE 24-E • TOPEKA, KS 66612 • (785) 296-2321

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Scott Abbott, Assistant Revisor
Date: February 20, 2017
Re: Senate Bill No. 174

Senate Bill No. 174 would affiliate the Wichita area technical college with Wichita state university. The bill would designate the institutional infrastructure of the Wichita area technical college as the Wichita state university campus of applied sciences and technology, which would be governed by and operated as a technical college campus within Wichita state university. The campus would continue to be a technical college and be eligible for funding that is available to technical colleges.

The bill would cause the governing board of the Wichita area technical college to become the industry advisory board to the president of Wichita state university for the Wichita state university campus of applied sciences and technology. Members of the industry advisory board would be appointed by the president of Wichita state university, and board members would represent an industry sector that corresponds to a program offered by the campus. Any existing powers, duties and functions of the governing board would be transferred to Wichita state university, subject to rules and regulations of the state board of regents.

Section 1(c) would require the campus to offer programs that focus on critical areas of regional competitiveness. The bill requires the industry advisory board to review non-credit and credit programs with the president of Wichita state university and senior leadership of the campus to ensure that the programs align with current and emerging needs of the industry.

Section 1(d) would exempt certain persons admitted by Wichita state university into the campus of applied sciences and technology from the general admission requirements established by the state board of regents for state educational institutions under K.S.A. 76-717, including nondegree-seeking persons and persons admitted to programs ending with an associate of applied sciences degree. Any person admitted to the campus who seeks to transfer to another school or program within Wichita state university would become subject to the general admission requirements.

Sections 1(e) through 1(i) contain standard boilerplate language relating to the transfer of powers, duties and functions from the Wichita area technical college to Wichita state university, including: Continued effect of any statute, contract or other document referring to Wichita area technical college; enforceability of any existing contract, agreement or assurance; transfer of employees from Wichita area technical college to Wichita state university; and savings of any suit, action or other proceeding commenced by or against Wichita area technical college.

Sections 2 through 4 make corresponding amendments to existing law to update references to the newly-designated Wichita state university campus of applied sciences and technology.

If enacted, the bill would take effect upon publication in the statute book, July 1, 2017. The affiliation of Wichita area technical college with Wichita state university would be subject to approval by the higher learning commission of the north central association of colleges and schools.