

March 9, 2020

The Honorable Troy Waymaster, Chairperson
House Committee on Appropriations
Statehouse, Room 111-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Waymaster:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2731 by House Committee on Appropriations

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2731 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2731 would establish the Wartime Veteran and First Responder Survivors' Grant Program. The Program would provide educational grants to survivors for the costs of tuition, fees and books for an academic year at a Kansas postsecondary educational institution. The number of grants awarded and the amount of the grants would be determined by the Kansas Board of Regents and subject to appropriations. The total number of grants awarded per academic year could not exceed 30. The bill would create the Wartime Veteran and First Responder Survivors' Grant Fund. On June 30 of each year, any unencumbered balance in the Fund in excess of \$350,000 would be transferred to the State General Fund upon certification by the Director of the Budget and the Director of Legislative Research. The Wartime Veteran and First Responder Survivors' Grant Program and the Wartime Veteran and First Responder Survivors' Grant Fund would be administered by the Kansas Board of Regents.

The bill would define "survivor" to mean:

1. A natural, adopted or stepchild of a qualifying wartime veteran or qualifying first responder who is less than 25 years of age and was dependent on the veteran or first responder at the time of the veteran's or first responder's death or injury or within five years after the injury; or
2. The spouse of a qualifying wartime veteran or qualifying first responder who was married to the veteran or first responder at the time of the veteran's or first responder's death or injury or within five years after the injury.

To be eligible for the grant, the bill would require the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office to certify that program participants are survivors; survivors to be accepted for admission or enrolled in a Kansas postsecondary education institution; and survivors to complete the required grant application. The Kansas Board of Regents, in consultation with the Commission

on Veterans Affairs Office, would be required to adopt rules and regulations for the Program on or before March 1, 2021.

Estimated State Fiscal Effect				
	FY 2020 SGF	FY 2020 All Funds	FY 2021 SGF	FY 2021 All Funds
Revenue	--	--	--	--
Expenditure	--	--	\$232,350	\$232,350
FTE Pos.	--	--	--	--

The Kansas Board of Regents estimates the bill would require \$232,350 from the State General Fund in FY 2021 for the grant award program. The amount assumes \$192,570, or 70.0 percent of the grants awarded, would be for tuition, fees and books at public universities (\$9,170 average total cost for a full-time student X 30 grants awarded X 70.0 percent) and \$39,780, or 30.0 percent of the grants awarded, would be for tuition, fees and books at community or technical colleges (\$4,420 average total cost for a full-time student X 30 grants awarded X 30.0 percent). The Board indicates the percentages are based on enrollments in a nearly identical program provided under KSA 75-4364, which provides educational benefits, including tuition and fee costs, for spouses and dependents of deceased public safety officers, certain deceased military personnel, and prisoners of war. The Board indicates that creating rules and regulations and administering the program could be accomplished within existing resources.

The Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office indicates the bill would require staff time to coordinate the development of rules and regulations with the Kansas Board of Regents and to certify survivors. The Commission states that these responsibilities could be achieved within existing resources.

The bill does not identify a source of revenue for the Wartime Veteran and First Responder Survivors' Grant Fund. It is unclear how it would be able to provide educational grants and how an unencumbered balance above \$350,000 would be achieved. The amount that would be transferred to the State General Fund is unknown. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2731 is not reflected in *The FY 2021 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Larry L. Campbell
Director of the Budget

cc: Kelly Oliver, Board of Regents
Luke Drury, Veterans Affairs