

KANSAS OFFICE *of*
REVISOR *of* STATUTES

LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS
Legislative Attorneys transforming ideas into legislation.

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

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Waymaster and members of the House Appropriations Committee

From: Jill A. Wolters, First Assistant Revisor

Date: March 7, 2022

Subject: **HB2716**, Concerning the authorization of educational benefits for spouses and dependents of deceased, injured or disabled public safety officers and employees and certain deceased, injured or disabled military personnel and prisoners of war; definitions; increasing the limitation on reimbursements to Kansas educational institutions.

During the 2021 Legislative Session, House Bill No. 2094 was passed amending the educational benefit program pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4364, expanding those eligible to receive the tuition and fees waiver. The bill expanded who is eligible to enroll in a Kansas educational institution without charge of tuition and fees to include a dependent or spouse of an injured or disabled public safety officer or military service member or a dependent or spouse of a military service member who has at least a 80% service-connected disability as a result of injuries sustained in combat after 9/11/2001. The bill expanded the definition of a “public safety officer” to include any employee of a law enforcement office, sheriff’s department, municipal fire department, volunteer and non-volunteer fire protection association, emergency medical services provider or correctional institution of the department of corrections. Finally, the bill limited the amount of reimbursement to Kansas educational institutions to a total of \$350,000 in any fiscal year.

House Bill No. 2716 defines the following terms for use by the board of regents in implementing this educational benefit program: Accident, covered person, fees, injured or disabled, injury, disability, intentional act of violence, nature of employment and repetitive trauma. Note, “public safety employee” shows as a new definition, but is not new, just moved into alphabetical order. Additionally, the bill increases the limitation on the amount of reimbursement to Kansas educational institutions from a total of \$350,000 to \$500,000 in any fiscal year.

The bill becomes effective upon the publication in the statute book.