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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: March 23, 2021
Subject: HB 2287—Kansas Promise Scholarship Act

House Bill 2287 as amended by House Committee would enact the Kansas promise scholarship act. The Kansas promise scholarship act would establish the Kansas promise scholarship program, which would be administered by the state board of regents. The Kansas promise scholarship program would, subject to appropriations, provide scholarships to eligible students for up to two years to attend eligible postsecondary educational institutions in an associate degree program or career and technical education program in certain job fields and career pathways identified by the board of regents. Following completion of the scholarship program, the scholarship recipient would be required to work in Kansas for two consecutive years.

An "eligible postsecondary educational institution" includes technical colleges, community colleges, and two-year associate degree programs or career and technical education programs offered by private four-year postsecondary educational institutions.

Section 1. Citation of Act and Definitions.

Section 1 would formally name the act as the Kansas promise scholarship act and would provide definitions of relevant terms used in the Kansas promise scholarship act.

Section 2. Program Established and Board of Regents Duties.

Section 2 would establish the Kansas promise scholarship program to be administered by the state board of regents. As part of administering the program, the state board of regents would be required to:

1. Work with community partners, such as community foundations, school districts, postsecondary educational institutions, Kansas business and industry and Kansas economic development organizations to publicize Kansas promise scholarships;

2. Allocate funds to each eligible postsecondary educational institution for the purpose of awarding Kansas promise scholarships;
3. Request information necessary for the administration of the act from eligible postsecondary educational institutions;
4. Annually collaborate with the department of commerce and Kansas business and industry to identify up to 10 job fields and pathways that currently have the highest need for skilled employees;
5. Designate scholarship-eligible career and technical programs and transfer education programs that correspond to the identified job fields and pathways;
6. Ensure that any student who receives a Kansas promise scholarship fulfills the employment or repayment requirements provided in section 5 of the bill; and
7. Annually evaluate the Kansas promise scholarship program and prepare and submit a report to the House and Senate education committees on the program.

Additionally, the state board of regents would be required to adopt rules and regulations on or before March 1, 2022, to implement and administer the program. The rules and regulations would include the following:

1. Scholarship application deadlines;
2. Appeal procedures for denial or revocation of a Kansas promise scholarship;
3. Guidelines to ensure that credits earned while in the program would transfer to another postsecondary educational institution, including four-year institutions;
4. Procedures for a student to record and report proof of community service and community service hours;
5. Terms, conditions and requirements to be included in each Kansas promise scholarship agreement;
6. Procedures for requesting and approving medical, military and personal absences from the program;
7. Criteria for determining whether students have fulfilled the employment and repayment requirements of the program; and
8. Criteria for determining when a student may be released from the requirements of the program if there are special circumstances that caused a student to not be able to fulfill the requirements of the program.

Section 3. Scholarship Awards.

Section 3 would establish scholarship amounts. The total appropriation for Kansas promise scholarships could not exceed \$10,000,000 in any fiscal year. The scholarship amounts would be determined based on whether the student was enrolled at a two-year postsecondary educational institution or a four-year postsecondary educational institution.

For a student enrolled at a two-year institution, the scholarship amount would be the tuition, fees and materials for the educational program less any grants, scholarships or financial assistance awards to the student that do not require repayment.

For a student enrolled in a private four-year institution that offers associate degrees or industry-recognized certificates in technical professions, the scholarship amount would be the average of the aggregate tuition, fees, books and materials for the program at a community college or technical college.

Section 4. Student Eligibility Requirements.

Section 4 would establish the eligibility requirements for students seeking a Kansas promise scholarship and the requirements for a student to continue to receive the scholarship. To be eligible for a scholarship a student must meet the following requirements:

1. Be a Kansas resident;
2. Be a graduate of a Kansas public or private secondary school or have obtained a high school equivalency certificate within the preceding 12 months. A student would not have to have graduated from a Kansas public or private secondary school if such student is the dependent child of a military servicemember permanently stationed in another state;
3. Complete the required scholarship application forms;
4. Enter into a Kansas promise scholarship agreement;
5. Complete the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) for the academic year the student is seeking a scholarship; and
6. Enroll in an eligible postsecondary educational institution in a scholarship-eligible career and technical education program or associate degree program.

To continue to receive a Kansas promise scholarship, a student must:

1. Annually complete 100 hours of community service or work part-time as verified by the eligible postsecondary educational institution;
2. Maintain a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA; and
3. Satisfy any other requirements of the Kansas promise scholarship agreement.

Section 5. Scholarship Agreement.

Section 5 subsection (a) would establish the requirements for the Kansas promise scholarship agreement that students must enter into with the eligible postsecondary educational institution making the scholarship award to such student. The Kansas promise scholarship agreement shall require the student to:

1. Enroll as a full-time student at the eligible postsecondary educational institution and engage in and complete the required career and technical education program or associate degree program;
2. Within six months after graduation from the program, either commence work in Kansas for at least two consecutive years or enroll as a full-time student in a four-year postsecondary educational institution, so long as upon graduation or failure to re-enroll from such four-year institution, the student commences work in Kansas for at least two consecutive years following the completion of such program;
3. Maintain records and make reports to the state board of regents as required by the state board of regents to document the satisfaction of the requirements of the program; and
4. Upon failure to satisfy the requirements of the program, repay the scholarship amount.

Subsection (b) would address scholarship repayment requirements. Any money repaid under this section would be credited to the state general fund. Subsection (c) would allow the state board of regents to postpone any requirement of a Kansas promise scholarship agreement for good cause. Subsection (d) would establish the ways in which a student who received a Kansas promise scholarship could satisfy the scholarship obligations, including:

1. Completing the requirements of the program;
2. Failing to satisfy the requirements of the program after making the best possible effort to do so;

3. Being unable to obtain employment upon graduation from the program;
4. Failing to satisfy the requirements of the program due to permanent physical disability;
or
5. Dying.

Section 6. Moratorium.

Section 6 would establish a moratorium on the program so that on and after July 1, 2026, no Kansas promise scholarship could be awarded to any student who had not previously been awarded a Kansas promise scholarship.

Section 7. Effective Date.

HB 2287 would take effect upon publication in the statute book.