

SESSION OF 2011

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 143

As Amended by House Committee on
Education

Brief*

SB 143 would make technical corrections and updates related to postsecondary technical education. The bill would update terminology, remove definitions for terms no longer used, eliminate vocational school references, add individual institution specific references, update and remove obsolete sections of identified statutes, and repeal statutes no longer needed.

The bill would create the Postsecondary Tiered Technical Education State Aid Act (the Act), replacing the current funding structure. Beginning with FY 2012, and in each fiscal year thereafter, each community college, technical college, and Washburn Institute of Technology would be eligible for postsecondary tiered technical education state aid from the State General Fund for credit hours approved by the State Board of Regents, using a credit hour cost calculation model, that would include the following concepts:

- Arrange into categories or tiers, technical education programs, recognizing cost differentials; (For example, programs with similar costs comprise one of six tiers.)
- Consider target industries critical to the Kansas economy;
- Respond to program growth;
- Consider local taxing authority for credit hours generated by in-district students; and

*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>

- Include other factors and considerations determined necessary by the State Board of Regents.

The State Board of Regents would establish the rates to be used as the state's share in a given year, as well as in the actual distribution. The bill would prohibit receipt of both tiered technical education state aid and non-tiered course state aid for any one credit hour. (A non-tiered course would be a general education course.)

The bill would provide for fund accounting and management requirements related to state aid received under the Act. The bill would authorize the State Board of Regents to adopt policies necessary or desirable to implement and administer the Act.

The bill would provide that each community college and technical college is eligible for a grant from the State General Fund, in an amount determined by the State Board of Regents for non-tiered course credit hours approved by the Board of Regents after dialogue with community college and technical college presidents.

Background

The original SB 143 was introduced by the Kansas Board of Regents in response to 2009 legislation (KSA 72-4482) which directed the Board to develop and recommend a credit hour funding distribution formula for postsecondary technical training programs that is tiered, takes into account target industries critical to the Kansas economy, is responsive to program growth, and includes other factors as deemed necessary and advisable.

Proponents of SB 143 included Dr. Robert J. Edelston, President of the Kansas Association of Technical Colleges; Dr. Ed Berger, representing the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees; and Dr. Blake Flanders, Vice President for Workforce Development with the Kansas Board of Regents.

The Senate Education Committee amended SB 143 by changing the effective date to publication in the statute book.

The President of the Kansas Association of Technical Colleges was a proponent of SB 13 along with the Vice-president of Workforce Development for the Kansas Board of Regents. SB 13 had no opponents. (SB 13 would make technical corrections and updates related to postsecondary technical education.)

The House Committee on Education removed the contents of SB 13 and inserted the contents into SB 143. SB 13 was part of the Kansas Board of Regents legislative package brought to the Legislative Educational Planning Committee.

The Division of the Budget fiscal note on the original SB 143 indicated that the bill would have no fiscal effect unless additional funding was appropriated by the Legislature. The Governor's budget assumes continuation of the current system. The Division of Budget fiscal note on the original SB 13 stated there would be no fiscal impact.