

**HOUSE BILL No. 2407**

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

2-22

1 AN ACT concerning postsecondary educational institutions; relating to  
2 policies on sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and  
3 stalking; prescribing the provisions thereof.  
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

6 Section 1. (a) As used in this section:

7 (1) "Affirmative consent" means affirmative, conscious and voluntary  
8 agreement to engage in sexual activity. "Affirmative consent" does not  
9 include lack of protest, lack of resistance or silence. The existence of a  
10 dating relationship or past sexual relations between the persons involved  
11 shall not by itself be an indicator of "affirmative consent."

12 (2) "Board" means the state board of regents or the governing board  
13 of any municipal university, community college or technical college.

14 (3) "Institution" means any postsecondary educational institution as  
15 defined in K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments thereto.

16 (b) The board of a postsecondary educational institution shall adopt a  
17 policy concerning sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and  
18 stalking involving a student, both on and off campus. The policy shall  
19 include:

20 (1) An affirmative consent standard in the determination of whether  
21 consent was given by all parties to a sexual activity. It is the responsibility  
22 of each person involved in the sexual activity to ensure that such person  
23 has received affirmative consent of the other person or persons to engage  
24 in the sexual activity. Affirmative consent is required throughout a sexual  
25 activity and may be revoked at any time;

26 (2) a standard that in the evaluation of complaints in any disciplinary  
27 process, if there is an alleged lack of consent, it shall not be a valid defense  
28 that the accused believed that the complainant consented to the sexual  
29 activity if:

30 (A) The accused's belief in the existence of affirmative consent arose  
31 from such accused's own intoxication or recklessness; or

32 (B) the accused did not take reasonable steps, in the circumstances  
33 known to the accused at the time, to ascertain whether the complainant  
34 affirmatively consented;

35 (3) a standard that in the evaluation of complaints in any disciplinary  
36 process, it shall not be a valid defense that the accused believed that the

1 complainant affirmatively consented to the sexual activity if the accused  
2 knew or reasonably should have known that the complainant was unable to  
3 consent to the sexual activity if the complainant was:

4 (A) Asleep or unconscious;

5 (B) incapacitated due to the influence of drugs, alcohol or medication  
6 so that the complainant could not understand the fact, nature or extent of  
7 the sexual activity; or

8 (C) unable to communicate due to a mental or physical condition; and

9 (4) a statement that the preponderance of the evidence standard shall  
10 be used in determining whether the elements of the complaint against the  
11 accused have been demonstrated.

12 (c) The board of a postsecondary educational institution shall adopt  
13 detailed and victim-centered policies and protocols regarding sexual  
14 assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking involving a  
15 student that comport with best practices and current professional  
16 standards. Such policies and protocols shall at minimum address the  
17 following:

18 (1) How the institution will provide appropriate protections for the  
19 privacy of individuals involved, including confidentiality;

20 (2) the initial response by the institution's personnel to a report of an  
21 incident, including requirements specific to assisting the victim, providing  
22 information in writing about the importance of preserving evidence, and  
23 the identification and location of witnesses;

24 (3) the response to stranger and nonstranger sexual assault;

25 (4) the preliminary victim interview, including the development of a  
26 victim interview protocol and a comprehensive follow-up victim interview,  
27 as appropriate;

28 (5) contacting and interviewing the accused;

29 (6) seeking the identification and location of witnesses;

30 (7) providing written notification to the victim about the availability  
31 of, and contact information for, both on and off campus resources and  
32 services and coordination with law enforcement, as appropriate;

33 (8) participation of victim advocates and other supporting personnel;

34 (9) investigating allegations that alcohol or drugs were involved in  
35 the incident;

36 (10) providing that an individual who participates as a complainant or  
37 witness in an investigation of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating  
38 violence or stalking will not be subject to disciplinary sanctions for a  
39 violation of the institution's student conduct policy at or near the time of  
40 the incident, unless the institution determines that the violation was  
41 egregious, including, but not limited to, an action that places the health or  
42 safety of any other person at risk or involves plagiarism, cheating or  
43 academic dishonesty;

1 (11) the role of institutional staff supervision;

2 (12) a comprehensive, trauma-informed training program for campus  
3 officials involved in investigating and adjudicating sexual assault,  
4 domestic violence, dating violence and stalking cases; and

5 (13) procedures for confidential reporting by victims and third  
6 parties.

7 (d) (1) The board of a postsecondary educational institution shall  
8 implement comprehensive prevention and outreach programs addressing  
9 sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.

10 (2) A comprehensive prevention program shall include a range of  
11 prevention strategies, including, but not limited to, empowerment  
12 programming for victim prevention, awareness raising campaigns, primary  
13 prevention, bystander intervention and risk reduction.

14 (3) An outreach program shall be provided to make students aware of  
15 an institution's policy on sexual violence, dating violence and stalking.  
16 Such outreach program shall include, but not be limited to: A process for  
17 contacting and informing the student body, campus organizations and other  
18 student groups about the institution's overall sexual assault policy; the  
19 practical implications of an affirmative consent standard; and the rights  
20 and responsibilities of the students under the policy.

21 (4) Outreach programming shall be included as part of every  
22 incoming student's orientation.

23 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
24 publication in the statute book.