HOUSE BILL No. 2515

By Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

1-28

AN ACT concerning postsecondary education; relating to scholarship programs; creating the Kansas promise scholarship act.

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

Section 1. (a) The provisions of section 1 et seq., and amendments thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the Kansas promise scholarship act.

(b) As used in the Kansas promise scholarship act:

(1) "Eligible postsecondary educational institution" means:
(A) Any community college established pursuant to chapter 71 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto;
(B) any technical college established under the laws of this state;
(C) the Washburn institute of technology; or
(D) any two-year associate degree program or career and technical education program offered by a private postsecondary educational institution accredited by the higher learning commission with its primary location in Kansas.

(2) "Military servicemember" means the same as defined in K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 48-3406, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 2. (a) There is hereby established the Kansas promise scholarship program. The state board of regents shall administer the program.

(b) On or before March 1, 2021, the state board of regents shall adopt rules and regulations to implement and administer the Kansas promise scholarship program. Such rules and regulations shall establish:

(1) Scholarship application deadlines;

(2) appeal procedures for denial or revocation of a Kansas promise scholarship;

(3) guidelines to ensure as much as is practicable that, if a student who received a Kansas promise scholarship graduates from a career and technical education certificate program or transfer associate degree program pursuant to this act and subsequently enrolls in a state educational institution, as defined in K.S.A. 76-711, and amendments thereto, or municipal university any courses taken by such student shall be transferred to the state educational institution or municipal university and qualify toward the student's baccalaureate degree;
(4) procedures for a student who receives a Kansas promise scholarship to record and report proof of community service and community service hours;
(5) the terms, conditions and requirements that shall be incorporated into each Kansas promise scholarship agreement;
(6) procedures for requesting and approving medical, military and personal absences from an eligible postsecondary educational institution while receiving a Kansas promise scholarship;
(7) criteria for determining whether any student who received a Kansas promise scholarship fulfilled the employment and repayment requirements included in a Kansas promise scholarship agreement as provided in section 5, and amendments thereto; and
(8) criteria for determining when a student who received a Kansas promise scholarship may be released from the requirements of a Kansas promise scholarship, if there are special circumstances that caused such student to be unable to complete such requirements.

(c) The state board of regents shall:
(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, including, but not limited to, publicizing eligible postsecondary educational institutions, approved scholarship-eligible educational programs, application procedures and application deadlines;
(2) allocate funds to each eligible postsecondary educational institution for the purpose of awarding Kansas promise scholarships;
(3) request information from eligible postsecondary educational institutions necessary for the administration of this act;
(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 job fields and pathways identified in paragraph (4);
(6) ensure that any student who received a Kansas promise scholarship fulfills the employment or repayment requirements provided in section 5, and amendments thereto; and
(7) beginning January 2021, annually evaluate the Kansas promise scholarship program and prepare and submit a report to the senate standing committee on education and the house of representatives standing committee on education.

Sec. 3. (a) Subject to appropriations, the amount of a Kansas promise scholarship for a student for each semester shall be the aggregate amount
of tuition, required fees and the cost of books and required materials for
the educational program at the eligible postsecondary educational
institution for the academic year in which the student is enrolled and
receiving the scholarship minus the aggregate amount of all other aid
awarded to such student for such semester. **Aid includes any grant,**
**scholarship or financial assistance awards that do not require**
**repayment. During any fiscal year, the appropriation pursuant to this**
**section shall not exceed $10,000,000.**

(b) If a student is enrolled in an eligible postsecondary education
program offered by a four-year eligible postsecondary educational
institution, the aggregate amount of tuition, mandatory fees and the
cost of books and materials for such eligible postsecondary education
program shall be the average cost of tuition, mandatory fees and the
cost of books and materials for such eligible postsecondary education
program when offered by an eligible public postsecondary educational
institution that is not a four-year institution.

Sec. 4. (a) To be eligible for a Kansas promise scholarship, a student
shall:

(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. This paragraph shall not apply to a student who is a
dependent child of a military servicemember permanently stationed in
another state who graduates from a postsecondary school or obtains a
high school equivalency certificate **within the preceding 12 months;**

(3) complete the required scholarship application on such forms and
in such manner as established by the state board of regents;

(4) enter into a Kansas promise scholarship agreement pursuant to
section 5, and amendments thereto;

(5) complete the free application for federal student aid for the
academic year in which the student applies to receive a Kansas promise
scholarship; and

(6) enroll in an eligible postsecondary educational institution in a
scholarship-eligible **career and technical education program or associate**
degree program with coursework in an identified job field that
**corresponds to a baccalaureate degree program.**

(b) To continue to receive a Kansas promise scholarship, a student
shall:

(1) Annually complete 100 hours of community service or be
employed and work a minimum of 15 hours per week verified by the
eligible postsecondary educational institution to be employed part-
time throughout the time period in which the student is receiving a Kansas
promise scholarship;
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(2) maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0; and
(3) satisfy any other requirements of a Kansas promise scholarship agreement as provided in section 5, and amendments thereto.
(c) Nothing in this act shall prohibit a student who received postsecondary course credit while enrolled in high school from qualifying for a Kansas promise scholarship.

Sec. 5. (a) As a condition to receiving a Kansas promise scholarship, an eligible student shall enter into a Kansas promise scholarship agreement with the eligible postsecondary educational institution making the scholarship award to such student. Such agreement shall require such student who receives a Kansas promise scholarship to:

(1) **Engage Enroll** as a full-time student at the eligible postsecondary educational institution for which the student is receiving a Kansas promise scholarship and engage in and complete the required career and technical education—certificate program or associate degree program of the eligible postsecondary educational institution for which the student is receiving the scholarship with coursework in an identified job field that corresponds to a baccalaureate degree program;
(2) within six months after graduation from the career and technical education—certificate program or associate degree program with coursework in an identified job field that corresponds to a baccalaureate degree program:
   (A) Commence work in the state of Kansas for at least two consecutive years following completion of such program; or
   (B) enroll as a full-time student in any public or private postsecondary educational institution with its primary location in Kansas and upon graduation or failure to re-enroll as a full-time student at such institution, commence 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 on such forms and in such manner as required by the state board of regents to document the satisfaction of the requirements of this act; and
(4) upon failure to satisfy the requirements of a Kansas promise scholarship agreement, repay the amount of the Kansas promise scholarship the student received under the program as provided in subsection (b).

(b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (c), if any student who receives a Kansas promise scholarship fails to satisfy the requirements of a Kansas promise scholarship agreement entered into pursuant to this section, such student shall pay an amount equal to the total amount of money received by such student pursuant to such agreement that is financed by the state of Kansas plus accrued interest at a rate equivalent to
the interest rate applicable to loans made under the federal PLUS program at the time such person first entered into an agreement. Installment payments of such amounts may be made in accordance with rules and regulations of the state board of regents. Such installment payments shall begin six months after the date of the action or circumstances that cause such student to fail to satisfy the requirements of a Kansas promise scholarship agreement, as determined by the state board of regents upon the circumstances of each individual case. All moneys received pursuant to this subsection shall be remitted to the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the state general fund.

(2) The state board of regents is authorized to turn any repayment account arising under this act to a designated loan servicer or collection agency, the state not being involved other than to receive payments from the loan servicer or collection agency at the interest rate prescribed under this subsection.

(c) Any requirement under a Kansas promise scholarship agreement entered into pursuant to this section may be postponed for good cause in accordance with rules and regulations of the state board of regents.

(d) A student who received a Kansas promise scholarship and entered into a Kansas promise scholarship agreement satisfies the requirements under such agreement when such student:

(1) Completes the requirements in accordance with such agreement;
(2) fails to satisfy the requirements for completion of the educational requirements after making the best effort possible to do so;
(3) is unable to obtain employment and continue in such employment after making the best effort possible to do so;
(4) is unable to satisfy the requirements due to permanent physical disability; or
(5) dies.

Sec. 6. On and after July 1, 2025, no Kansas promise scholarship shall be awarded to any student who has not previously been awarded a Kansas promise scholarship prior to July 1, 2025.

Sec. 6. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.