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LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS  
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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Chairperson Thomas  
Members of the House Committee on Education

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: January 30, 2024

Subject: HB 2567 – Kansas National Guard Educational Master’s for Enhanced Readiness and Global Excellence (EMERGE) Program.

House Bill No. 2567 (HB 2567) would establish the Kansas National Guard Educational Master’s for Enhanced Readiness and Global Excellence (EMERGE) Program. The EMERGE Program is structured very similar to the existing Kansas National Guard Educational Assistance Program, K.S.A. 74-32,149 et seq. Both Programs provide tuition and fee financial assistance for members of the Kansas National Guard who are enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution to obtain a degree. The primary differences between the two programs are that:

- (1) The EMERGE Program participants must be working towards obtaining a master’s degree; and
- (2) EMERGE program participation is limited to only those members who are selected for the Program by the Adjutant General.

Under HB 2567, the Adjutant General will select up to 100 members of the Kansas National Guard each year for participation in the EMERGE Program. However, no more than 200 members can be participants in any one year. Participants will then receive tuition and fee financial assistance for up to 15 credit hours taken each semester that are required for the participant’s master’s degree program. Each participant must complete the free application for federal student aid and apply for any other federal tuition assistance the participant may be eligible to receive. Such other financial assistance will offset the financial assistance provided under the Program. The master’s degree program must be at either a state university or a private accredited college or university.

To remain eligible as a participant in the Program, the member must:

- Remain in good standing at the postsecondary educational institution they are attending;
- Make satisfactory progress towards their degree;
- Maintain a grade point average of 2.75 or better; and
- Maintain satisfactory participation in the Kansas National Guard.

HB 2567 also requires participants to serve actively in good standing in the Kansas National Guard for 72 months after completing their final semester. If the participant fails to satisfy this requirement, the participant is required to repay a portion of the financial assistance depending on the amount of time the participant did not serve as required. Such failure to serve may be excused by the Kansas National Guard for extenuating circumstances or extreme hardship.

If enacted, HB 2567 would become effective on July 1, 2024.