

February 5, 2018

The Honorable Clay Aurand, Chairperson
House Committee on Education
Statehouse, Room 286-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Aurand:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2541 by House Committee on Education

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2541 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2541 would amend the Kansas National Guard Educational Assistance Act to make the following changes:

1. Modify the definition of eligible guard member to any current member of the Kansas National Guard who is enrolled at a Kansas educational institution and who is not under a suspension of favorable action flag or currently on the unit unfavorable information file;
2. Include guard members who are entitled to federal education benefits;
3. Modify the level of educational assistance provided to an amount equal to the tuition and required fees for no more than 15 credit hours, and limit the aggregate number of credit hours for which assistance may be provided to 150.0 percent of the total credit hours required for the eligible guard member to complete his or her educational program;
4. Clarify that the amount of tuition and fees paid an eligible guard member must not exceed the maximum rate that would be charged by a state educational institution as defined in KSA 76-711;
5. Require there to be at least one year remaining on a member's enlistment contract at the beginning of any semester for which the member receives assistance and the member must agree to serve actively in good standing with the Kansas National Guard for at least 24 months upon completion of the last semester for which the member receives assistance;

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6. Require each member to apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and apply for any other federal tuition assistance that the member may be eligible for prior to becoming eligible for the program;
7. Require each participant to maintain a 2.0 grade point average;
8. Require each participant to submit a transcript to the member's unit of assignment that includes the credit hours earned and grades;
9. Modify how the Kansas Board of Regents determines the amount of assistance that must be repaid by any member who fails to satisfy the program agreement; and
10. Provide a waiver for any member who is required to repay any amount of assistance for failure to satisfy the program agreement by reason of extenuating circumstances or extreme hardship.

The bill outlines the procedure that a member would be required to follow to receive a hardship waiver. In addition, HB 2541 would require the Chief of Staff of the Kansas Army National Guard or the Director of Staff for the Kansas Air National Guard to review all requests for a waiver from recoupment and the make the decision to issue such waiver.

Both the Kansas Adjutant General's Department and the Kansas Board of Regents indicate HB 2541 would have no fiscal effect.

Sincerely,



Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Kelly Oliver, Board of Regents
Cheri Froetschner, Office of the Adjutant General