

Community College Taxpayer Transparency Act; HB 2144

HB 2144 amends law related to community college student fees and enacts the Community College Taxpayer Transparency Act.

The bill includes findings and conclusions generally noting the structure and financing of community colleges; the duty of transparency owed by community colleges to property taxpayers and students of community colleges; and reaffirming the students and taxpayers of community colleges as the priority in financial decisions, reporting processes, and transparency measures of community colleges.

The bill is effective on and after July 1, 2020.

Community College Student Fees

The bill requires any student fees to be charged have a specific purpose and that purpose to be specified on the community college's website. The bill requires any billing statements or other information provided to students regarding student fees to guide students to the community college's website address. The bill requires revenues from student fees be spent only for the specified purpose of the fee.

Community College Taxpayer Transparency Act

The bill requires community colleges to identify the courses that are fully transferable to four-year colleges governed by the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) and prominently specify those courses on the community college's website and on the KBOR's website.

The bill also requires community colleges to publish certain information to the community college's website under an easily identifiable link titled "taxpayer and student transparency data." Required information includes:

- Tuition rates for students residing in the community college district, in-state students residing outside the community college district, out-of-state students, and international students;
- Fees charged to students residing in the community college district, in-state students residing outside the community college district, out-of-state students, and international students;
- Total cost per credit hour for each semester, excluding housing and textbooks, for students residing in the community college district, in-state students residing outside the community college district, out-of-state students, and international students;
- The percentage of students attending each campus of the community college who are students residing in the community college district, in-state students

residing outside the community college district, out-of-state students, and international students;

- The enrollment percentage of students residing inside and outside of the community college district;
- The enrollment percentage of students residing in the service area of the community college;
- The aggregate amount of property tax revenues and mills levied by the community college for each of the preceding five fiscal years and the annual percent change; and
- The aggregate amount disbursed for the two immediately preceding fiscal years for institutional scholarships, foundation scholarships, and federal Pell Grants, in terms of athletic and non-athletic scholarships, for students residing in the community college district and students residing outside the state. The bill specifies this aggregate information shall not be reported if such information could identify a student with reasonable certainty.