

HOUSE BILL No. 2412

By Representatives Cook, DiVita and Vickrey

2-7

AN ACT establishing the school district technology information specialist scholarship program.

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

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the school district technology information specialist scholarship program.

Sec. 2. As used in this act:

(a) "Executive officer" means the chief executive officer of the state board of regents appointed under K.S.A. 2000 Supp. 74-3203a, and amendments thereto;

(b) "qualified student" means a person who: (1) Is a resident of the state of Kansas; (2) has been accepted for admission to or is enrolled full time in a course of instruction leading to a degree in technology, computer science or information management systems; and (3) has qualified for the award of a scholarship under the school district technology information specialist scholarship program on the basis of having demonstrated scholastic ability, or who has previously so qualified and remains qualified for renewal of the scholarship on the basis of remaining in good standing and making satisfactory progress toward completion of the requirements of the course of instruction in which enrolled.

Sec. 3. (a) There is hereby established the school district technology information specialist scholarship program. A scholarship may be awarded under the program to any qualified student and may be renewed for each such student who remains qualified for the scholarship. The number of new scholarships awarded under the program in each year shall not exceed 50. Determination of the students qualified for such scholarships shall be made by the executive officer. Scholastic ability shall be determined on the basis of any one or more of the following: (1) High ACT or SAT score; (2) rank in high school graduation class; (3) cumulative high school or college grade point average; or (4) any other indicator of scholastic ability which the state board of regents determines to be demonstrative of potential for successful completion of a course of instruction leading to a degree in technology, computer science or information management systems.

(b) A scholarship awarded under the program shall provide for pay-

1 ment to a qualified student of (1) an amount not to exceed 70% of the
2 cost of attendance for an academic year at a state educational institution
3 or (2) an amount not to exceed 70% of the average amount of the cost of
4 attendance for an academic year at the state educational institutions if
5 the institution of higher education at which the qualified student is en-
6 rolled is not a state educational institution. A qualified student may be
7 awarded a scholarship for not more than four academic years of under-
8 graduate study, except that a qualified student who is enrolled full time
9 in a course of instruction leading to a degree in technology, computer
10 science or information management systems for which graduate study is
11 required may be awarded a scholarship for the duration of the course of
12 instruction.

13 Sec. 4. (a) An applicant for designation as a qualified student and for
14 the award of a scholarship under the school district technology informa-
15 tion specialist scholarship program shall provide to the executive officer,
16 on forms supplied by the executive officer, information required by the
17 executive officer.

18 (b) As a condition to awarding a scholarship under this act, the ex-
19 ecutive officer and the applicant shall enter into an agreement which shall
20 require the applicant to:

21 (1) Complete the required course of instruction leading to a degree
22 in technology, computer science or information management systems;

23 (2) commence employment by a school district in Kansas as a school
24 district technology information specialist on a full-time basis in accord-
25 ance with the agreement and continue such employment on a full-time
26 basis for a period of not less than the length of the course of instruction
27 for which the scholarship was awarded or commence employment by a
28 school district in Kansas as a school district technology information spe-
29 cialist on a part-time basis in accordance with the agreement and continue
30 such employment on a part-time basis for a period of time that is equiv-
31 alent to full time, as determined by the state board of regents, multiplied
32 by the length of the course of instruction for which the scholarship was
33 awarded;

34 (3) commence employment by a school district in Kansas as a school
35 district technology information specialist on a full-time or part-time basis
36 within six months after completion of the course of instruction for which
37 the scholarship was awarded and continue such employment for the pe-
38 riod of time required by the agreement;

39 (4) maintain records and make reports to the executive officer as re-
40 quired by the executive officer to document the satisfaction of the obli-
41 gations under this act and the agreement; and

42 (5) upon failure to satisfy an agreement to engage in employment by
43 a school district in Kansas as a school district technology information

1 specialist for the required period of time under any such agreement,
2 repay to the state amounts as provided in section 5, and amendments
3 thereto.

4 Sec. 5. (a) Except as provided in section 6, and amendments thereto,
5 upon the failure of any person to satisfy the obligation under any agree-
6 ment entered into pursuant to the school district technology information
7 specialist scholarship program, such person shall pay to the executive
8 officer an amount equal to the total amount of money received by such
9 person pursuant to such agreement plus accrued interest at a rate which
10 is equivalent to the interest rate applicable to loans made under the fed-
11 eral PLUS program at the time such person first entered into an agree-
12 ment plus five percentage points. Amounts of payment under this section
13 shall be adjusted proportionately for full years of the obligation that have
14 been satisfied. Installment payments of any such amounts may be made
15 in accordance with the provisions of the agreement entered into by the
16 scholarship recipient or if no such provisions exist in such agreement, in
17 accordance with rules and regulations of the state board of regents, except
18 that such installment payments shall commence six months after the date
19 of the action or circumstances that cause the failure of the person to
20 satisfy the obligations of such agreement, as determined by the executive
21 officer based upon the circumstances of each individual case. Amounts
22 paid under this section to the executive officer shall be deposited in the
23 school district technology information specialist scholarship repayment
24 fund in accordance with section 8, and amendments thereto.

25 (b) The state board of regents is authorized to turn any repayment
26 account arising under the school district technology information specialist
27 scholarship program over to a designated loan servicer or collection
28 agency, the state not being involved other than to receive payments from
29 the loan servicer or collection agency at the interest rate prescribed under
30 this section.

31 Sec. 6. (a) Except as otherwise specified in the agreement, an obli-
32 gation under any agreement entered into under the school district tech-
33 nology information specialist scholarship program shall be postponed: (1)
34 During any required period of active military service; (2) during any pe-
35 riod of service as a part of volunteers in service to America (VISTA); (3)
36 during any period of service in the peace corps; (4) during any period of
37 service commitment to the United States public health service; (5) during
38 any period of religious missionary work conducted by an organization
39 exempt from tax under section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue
40 code as in effect on December 31, 2000; (6) during any period of time
41 the person obligated is unable because of temporary medical disability to
42 be employed as a school district technology information specialist; (7)
43 during any period of time the person obligated is enrolled and actively

1 engaged on a full-time basis in a course of study leading to a degree in
2 the field of technology, computer science or information management
3 systems which is higher than that formerly attained; (8) during any period
4 of time the person obligated is on job-protected leave under the federal
5 family and medical leave act of 1993; or (9) during any period of time the
6 state board of regents determines that the person obligated is unable
7 because of special circumstances to be employed as a school district tech-
8 nology information specialist. Except for clauses (6), (8) and (9), an obli-
9 gation under any agreement entered into as provided in the school dis-
10 trict technology information specialist scholarship program shall not be
11 postponed more than two years from the time the obligation was to have
12 been commenced under such agreement. An obligation under any agree-
13 ment entered into as provided in the school district technology infor-
14 mation specialist scholarship program shall be postponed under clause
15 (6) during the period of time the medical disability exists. An obligation
16 under any agreement entered into as provided in the school district tech-
17 nology information specialist scholarship program shall be postponed un-
18 der clause (8) during the period of time the person obligated remains on
19 FMLA leave. An obligation to engage in employment as a school district
20 technology information specialist in accordance with an agreement under
21 the school district technology information specialist scholarship program
22 shall be postponed under clause (9) during the period of time the state
23 board of regents determines that the special circumstances exist. The
24 state board of regents shall adopt rules and regulations prescribing criteria
25 or guidelines for determination of the existence of special circumstances
26 causing an inability to be employed as a school district technology infor-
27 mation specialist, and shall determine the documentation required to
28 prove the existence of such circumstances.

29 (b) An obligation under any agreement entered into as provided in
30 the school district technology information specialist scholarship program
31 shall be satisfied: (1) If the obligation has been completed in accordance
32 with the agreement; (2) if the person obligated dies; (3) if, because of
33 permanent physical disability, the person obligated is unable to satisfy the
34 obligation; (4) if the person obligated fails to satisfy the requirements for
35 graduation with a degree in technology, computer science or information
36 management systems after making the best effort possible; (5) if the per-
37 son obligated is unable to obtain employment by a school district in Kan-
38 sas as a school district technology information specialist after making the
39 best effort possible to obtain such employment and the person obligated
40 otherwise completes the terms, conditions and obligations of the
41 agreement.

42 Sec. 7. The state board of regents shall adopt rules and regulations
43 for administration of the school district technology information specialist

1 scholarship program and shall establish terms, conditions and obligations
2 which shall be incorporated into the provisions of any agreement entered
3 into between the executive officer and an applicant for the award of a
4 scholarship under the program. The terms, conditions and obligations
5 shall be consistent with the provisions of law relating to the program and
6 shall include, but not be limited to, the circumstances under which eli-
7 gibility for financial assistance under the program may be terminated, the
8 amount of financial assistance to be provided, the circumstances under
9 which obligations may be discharged or forgiven, the amount of money
10 required to be repaid because of failure to satisfy the obligations under
11 an agreement and the method of repayment.

12 Sec. 8. (a) There is hereby created in the state treasury the school
13 district technology information specialist scholarship program fund. The
14 executive officer shall remit all moneys received under the school district
15 technology information specialist scholarship program, which are paid
16 because of nonattendance or discontinuance by scholarship recipients, to
17 the state treasurer at least monthly. Upon receipt of each such remittance
18 the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount thereof in the state
19 treasury, and such amount shall be credited to the school district tech-
20 nology information specialist scholarship program fund. All expenditures
21 from the school district technology information specialist scholarship pro-
22 gram fund shall be for scholarships awarded under the school district
23 technology information specialist scholarship program and shall be made
24 in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of
25 accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the exec-
26 utive officer or by a person designated by the executive officer.

27 (b) There is hereby created in the state treasury the school district
28 technology information specialist scholarship repayment fund. The ex-
29 ecutive officer shall remit all moneys received under the school district
30 technology information specialist scholarship program, which are for pay-
31 ment of amounts pursuant to section 5, and amendments thereto, to the
32 state treasurer at least monthly. Upon receipt of each such remittance
33 the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount thereof in the state
34 treasury, and such amount shall be credited to the school district tech-
35 nology information specialist scholarship repayment fund. All expendi-
36 tures from the school district technology information specialist scholar-
37 ship repayment fund shall be for scholarships awarded under the school
38 district technology information specialist scholarship program and shall
39 be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the di-
40 rector of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by
41 the executive officer or by a person designated by the executive officer.

42 Sec. 9. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
43 publication in the statute book.