## SENATE BILL No. 330

By Senators Umbarger and McGinn

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AN ACT concerning veterans; relating to assistance therefor; making and 10 concerning appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, for 11 12 state agencies; funeral picketing; amending K.S.A. 21-4015 and 39-13 7,106 and K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 76-729 and repealing the existing sec-14 tions; also repealing K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 76-729a. 15 16 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas: 17 New Section 1. 18 KANSAS COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS 19 (a) There is appropriated for the above agency from the state general 20 fund for the fiscal year or years specified, the following: 21 Operating expenditures — veteran services For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008..... 22 \$350,000 23 Veterans claim assistance program — service grants 24 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008..... \$500,000 25 *Provided*, That expenditures from the veterans claims assistance program 26 service grants account shall be made only for the purpose of awarding 27 service grants to veterans service organizations for the purpose of aiding 28 veterans in obtaining federal benefits: Provided however, That no ex-29 penditures shall be made by the Kansas commission on veterans affairs 30 from the veterans claim assistance program — service grants account for 31 operating expenditures or overhead for administering the grants in ac-32 cordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 73-1234 and 73-1235, 33 and amendments thereto. 34 State soldiers' assistance program 35 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008..... \$500,000 36 Provided, That expenditures from the state soldiers' assistance program 37 account shall be made only for the purposes established in section 2, and 38 amendments thereto. 39 New Sec. 2. (a) The Kansas commission on veterans affairs shall es-40 tablish and administer a state soldiers' assistance program to aid and assist 41 any veteran resident of Kansas in securing emergency relief, hospitali-42zation, treatment and maintenance of all such veterans who were bona 43 fide residents of the state at the time such veterans need arose and such

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veteran's dependents.

- (b) Subject to the availability of appropriations therefor, such program hall:
- (1) Assist dependent family members of military personnel who are called from reserve status to extended federal active duty during a time of war or national emergency;
- (2) assist veterans who are indigent or suffering from any disability whether such disability was acquired in the service or not;
  - (3) assist veterans and the veteran's dependents in establishing and proving any just claim the veteran may have against the United States government, or any other government or state for compensation, insurance, relief, or other benefits;
  - (4) provide maintenance and relief for any veteran suffering from disability who was a bona fide resident of the state at the time the need arose and the veteran's dependents; and
  - (5) cooperate with other state, city and county officials and civic or civilian agencies or organizations in carrying out the provisions of this section.
  - (c) The executive director shall limit financial assistance to veterans and dependents to six months, unless recipients have been certified as ineligible for other benefit programs.
  - (d) The Kansas commission on veterans affairs shall adopt rules and regulations to implement and administer the state soldiers' assistance program. The rules and regulations shall include income eligibility requirements for veterans.
  - (e) As used in this section, "resident" means a person living in Kansas for at least 30 days with the intention of residing in the state and not for any temporary purpose. An applicant may verify a residence address by presenting a valid state driver's license, a state identification card, a voter registration card, a rent receipt, a statement by the landlord, apartment manager, or homeowner verifying that the individual is residing at the address, or other form of verification approved by the executive director.
  - New Sec. 3. (a) Employees of the state of Kansas who serve in the military reserves and are called to full-time military duty, mobilized and deployed on and after July 1, 2007, are hereby authorized to receive a one-time activation gross payment of \$1,500.
  - (b) Employees of the state of Kansas who serve in the military reserves and are called to or currently on full-time military duty, mobilized and deployed on or after July 1, 2007, are hereby authorized to receive the difference between such employee's military pay and such employee's regular state of Kansas employee wages when the military pay is an amount less than the regular state employee wages not to exceed \$1,000 gross payment per pay period.

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- (c) In order to receive any payment pursuant to this section, the eligible employee shall present a copy of such employee's orders, along with any required paperwork to the employing agency.
  - (d) As used in this section, "eligible employee" means an employee who is:
  - (1) A current benefits eligible state of Kansas employee in the military reserves, including unclassified temporary employees who are benefits eligible;
    - (2) activated to full-time military duty; and
  - (3) mobilized and deployed in excess of 30 consecutive days in support of a military operation.

The employee is eligible if in any of the following military reserve groups in the United States: The military branches and related services of the Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Army or Air National Guard, Public Health Commissioned Corps, or other category of person designated by the President in time of war or emergency. The individual shall have been a state employee when mobilized and deployed.

(e) The secretary of administration shall adopt rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

New Sec. 4. (a) Any employee of the state of Kansas in a regular position shall be granted leave with pay for six working days if an immediate family member who, as a member of the United States armed forces, has been injured or killed while engaged in active service. Such employee shall be granted an additional four working days of leave without pay.

- (b) Any employee of the state of Kansas in a regular position shall be granted leave without pay for up to one day if an immediate family member, as a member of the United States armed forces, has been ordered into active service in support of a war or other national emergency. The agency may limit the amount of leave provided under this subsection to the actual time necessary for the employee to attend a send-off or homecoming ceremony for the mobilized service member, not to exceed one day's duration in any calendar year.
- (c) As used in this section, "immediate family member" means an employee's parent, child, grandparents, siblings or spouse.
- (d) The secretary of administration shall adopt rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this section.
- New Sec. 5. (a) An employer shall grant up to 10 working days of a leave of absence without pay to an employee whose immediate family member, as a member of the United States armed forces, has been injured or killed while engaged in active service.
  - (b) An employee shall give as much notice to the employee's employer

 as practicable of the employee's intent to exercise the leave guaranteed by this section.

- (c) The length of leave provided under this section may be reduced by any period of paid leave provided by the employer. Nothing in this section prevents an employer from providing leave benefits in addition to those provided in this section or otherwise affects an employee's rights with respect to other employment benefits.
- (d) The provisions of this section shall not apply to employees of the state of Kansas granted leave pursuant to section 4, and amendments thereto.
  - (e) As used in this section:
- (1) "Employee" means a person, independent contractor, or person working for an independent contractor who performs services for compensation, in whatever form, for an employer.
- (2) "Employer" means a person or entity located or doing business in this state and having one or more employees, and includes all political or other governmental subdivisions of the state.
- (3) "Immediate family member" means a person's parent, child, grand-parents, siblings or spouse.
- New Sec. 6. (a) Unless the leave would unduly disrupt the operations of the employer, an employer shall grant a leave of absence without pay to an employee whose immediate family member, as a member of the United States armed forces, has been ordered into active service in support of a war or other national emergency. The employer may limit the amount of leave provided under this subsection to the actual time necessary for the employee to attend a send-off or homecoming ceremony for the mobilized service member, not to exceed one day's duration in any calendar year.
- (b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to employees of the state of Kansas granted leave pursuant to section 4, and amendments thereto.
  - (c) As used in this section:
  - (1) "Employee" means a person who performs services for compensation, in whatever form, for an employer. Employee does not include an independent contractor.
  - (2) "Employer" means a person or entity located or doing business in this state and having one or more employees, and includes all political or other governmental subdivisions of the state.
  - (3) "Immediate family member" means a person's grandparent, parent, legal guardian, sibling, child, grandchild, spouse, fiance or fiancee.
  - New Sec. 7. (a) State educational institutions, community colleges, municipal universities and technical colleges shall recognize courses and award educational credits for courses that were part of a veteran's military

training or service if the courses meet the standards of the American council on education or equivalent standards for awarding academic credits.

- (b) Accredited independent institutions are encouraged to recognize courses and award educational credits for courses that were part of a veteran's military training or service if the courses meet the standards of the American council on education or equivalent standards for awarding academic credits.
- (c) State educational institutions, community colleges, municipal universities and technical colleges shall not assess late fees or other late charges for veterans who are eligible to receive federal educational assistance and who have applied for that assistance but not yet received it, nor shall such institutions prevent these students from registering for a subsequent term because of outstanding tuition charges that arise from delayed federal payments. Such institutions may request without delay the amount of tuition above expected federal educational assistance and may require payment of the full amount of tuition owed by the veteran within 30 days of receipt of the expected federal educational assistance.
  - (d) As used in this section:
- (1) "State educational institution" has the meaning ascribed thereto in K.S.A. 76-711, and amendments thereto.
- (2) "Community college" means any community college organized and operating under the laws of this state.
- (3) "Municipal university" means a municipal university established under the provisions of article 13a of chapter 13 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.
- (4) "Accredited independent institution" means an institution of postsecondary education the main campus of which is located in Kansas and which (A) is operated independently and not controlled or administered by any state agency or any subdivision of the state, (B) maintains open enrollment, and (C) is accredited by the north central association of colleges and secondary schools accrediting agency based on its requirements as of April 1, 1985, or by the higher learning commission of the north central association of colleges and schools based on its requirements as of January 1, 2006.
- (5) "Technical college" has the meaning ascribed thereto in K.S.A. 72-4212, and amendments thereto.
- (6) "Veteran" means a resident of Kansas who has been separated under honorable conditions from any branch of the armed forces of the United States.

New Sec. 8. (a) The state board of regents shall establish a program to provide central liaison staff and campus veterans assistance staff to serve the needs of students who are veterans at state educational insti-

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tutions. Methods of assistance may include, but not be limited to, workstudy positions for veterans, and providing information and assistance regarding the availability of state, federal, local, and private resources.

(b) As used in this section, "state educational institution" has the meaning ascribed thereto in K.S.A. 76-711, and amendments thereto.

New Sec. 9.

## DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

(a) There is appropriated for the above agency from the state general fund for the fiscal year or years specified, the following:

Reimbursement for annual licenses issued to Kansas disabled veterans

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008..... Provided, That all moneys in the reimbursement for annual licenses issued to Kansas disabled veterans account shall be expended to pay the wildlife fee fund for the cost of fees for annual hunting and annual fishing licenses issued for the calendar year 2008 to Kansas disabled veterans, which licenses are hereby authorized to be issued without charge to such veterans in accordance with policies and procedures prescribed by the secretary of wildlife and parks therefor and subject to the limitation of the moneys appropriated and available in the reimbursement for annual licenses issued to Kansas disabled veterans account to pay the wildlife fee fund for such licenses: Provided, however, That to qualify for such license without charge, the resident disabled veteran shall have been separated from the armed services under honorable conditions, have a disability certified by the Kansas commission on veterans affairs as being service connected and such service connected disability is equal to or greater than 30%: Provided further, That no other hunting or fishing licenses or permits shall be eligible to be paid from this account: And provided further, That any unencumbered balance in the reimbursement for annual licenses issued to Kansas disabled veterans account in excess of \$100 as of June 30, 2008, is hereby reappropriated for fiscal year 2009.

New Sec. 10. The board of healing arts shall grant an extension to the time period required to pass the United States medical licensing examination if an applicant is mobilized into active military service, during the process of taking such examination, but before passage of all steps. Proof of active military service must be submitted to the board on the forms and according to the timelines of the board. The board shall adopt rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

New Sec. 11. (a) A person who is in full-time military service of the United States and is or soon to be mobilized or deployed outside of the United States for a period of at least six months solely by reason of military orders, on or before December 1 of the year in which such person files a claim under this section, may elect to defer all or part of such person's real property taxes for such person's principal place of residence for any

 year in which such person is serving in active military duty for a period not to exceed two years. To exercise such election to defer, such person shall obtain a claim for deferral from the county clerk and file such claim with the county treasurer of the county in which the property is located. A person who is a family member or an attorney-in-fact of such person otherwise qualified to claim this deferral, may act for such person in claiming such deferral when such person's military service prevents such person from making such claim for deferral. The claim shall be accompanied by proof of military status in a form as provided by the secretary of revenue.

- (b) Such deferral shall have the effect of deferring all or part of such person's real property taxes as provided in subsection (a) for a period not to exceed two years, and to waive any interest or penalties related to such deferred real property taxes.
- (c) All such deferred real property taxes shall become payable when the deferral period ends, or the property is sold or title of such property is transferred to someone other than the person who made the election pursuant to subsection (a).
- (d) The secretary of revenue shall adopt rules and regulations regarding the forms that support the deferral claimed pursuant to this section and such other matters necessary to administer the provisions of this section.
- New Sec. 12. (a) As used in this section, "disabled veteran" means a person separated from the armed services under an honorable discharge and who has a disability certified by the United States department of veteran affairs as being service connected and such service connected disability is equal to or greater than 30%.
- (b) For all taxable years commencing after December 31, 2006, any taxpayer who is a disabled veteran shall be allowed a credit, as provided in subsection (c), against the tax imposed by the Kansas income tax act for real property taxes actually and timely paid by such taxpayer upon the principal place of residence of such taxpayer during the income taxable year.
- (c) The amount of the credit allowed pursuant to subsection (b) shall be an amount equal to the product of the total amount of such real property taxes paid during the income taxable year and the amount of service connected disability of such taxpayer expressed as a percentage.
- (d) If the amount of such tax credit exceeds the taxpayer's income tax liability for the taxable year, the amount thereof which exceeds such tax liability shall be refunded to the taxpayer.
- (e) The secretary of revenue shall adopt rules and regulations regarding the filing of documents that support the amount of credit allowed pursuant to this section.
- 43 Sec. 13. K.S.A. 21-4015 is hereby amended to read as follows: 21-

- 4015. (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the Kansas funeral picketing act.
  - (b) The legislature finds that:
- (1) It is generally recognized that families have a substantial interest in organizing and attending funerals for deceased relatives; and
- (2) the interests of families in privately and peacefully mourning the loss of deceased relatives are violated when funerals are targeted for picketing and other public demonstrations; and
- (3) picketing of funerals causes emotional disturbance and distress to grieving families who participate in funerals; and
- (4) full opportunity exists under the terms and provisions of this section for the exercise of freedom of speech and other constitutional rights at times other than within one hour prior to, during and two hours following the commencement of funerals.
  - (c) The purposes of this section are to:
- (1) Protect the privacy of grieving families within one hour prior to, during and two hours following the commencement of funerals; and
- (2) preserve the peaceful character of cemeteries, mortuaries and churches within one hour prior to, during and two hours following the commencement of funerals.
  - (d) As used in this section:
- (1) "Funeral" means the ceremonies, processions and memorial services held in connection with the burial or cremation of the dead any ceremony, procession or memorial service in connection with the death of a person.
- (2) "Picketing" means protest activities engaged in by a person or persons stationed before or about a cemetery, mortuary or, church or other location where a funeral is held or conducted within one hour prior to, during and two hours following the commencement of a funeral.
- (e) It is unlawful for any person to: (1) Engage in picketing before or about or directed protest march at any public location within 300 feet of any entrance to any cemetery, church or, mortuary or other location where a funeral is held or conducted within one hour prior to, during and two hours following the commencement of a funeral-;
- (2) obstruct or prevent the intended use of a public street, public sidewalk or other public space while engaged in picketing or a directed protest, as described in subsection (1); or
- (3) to display on signs, goods or clothing the name or image of any member of the United States armed forces who was killed while on active duty without first obtaining the written consent for such display from the family of the deceased.
- 42 (f) A violation of subsection (e) is a class B person misdemeanor. Each 43 day on which a violation of subsection (e) occurs shall constitute a separate

1 offense.

- (g) Notwithstanding the penalties provided in subsection (f), any district court may enjoin conduct proscribed by this section and may in any such proceeding award damages, including punitive damages, attorney fees or other appropriate relief against the persons found guilty of actions made unlawful by subsection (e).
- (h) If any provision of this section or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this section which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application. To this end the provisions of this section are severable.
- 12 (i) Amendments by this act to this section shall be applicable from and 13 after the date the Kansas supreme court upholds the constitutionality 14 thereof.
  - New Sec. 14. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of K.S.A. 60-1802, and amendments thereto, if an act of libel or slander is committed at a funeral and the person defamed is the deceased at such funeral or any living relative of the deceased, then an action for libel or slander may be sustained if brought within one year after such funeral by the estate of such deceased person on behalf of such deceased person or by or on behalf of any living relative of such deceased person.
  - (b) "Funeral" has the meaning provided by subsection (d)(1) of K.S.A. 21-4015 and amendments thereto.
  - (c) "At a funeral" means within 300 feet of any cemetery, church or mortuary within one hour prior to, during or two hours following the commencement of a funeral at such location.
  - New Sec. 15. (a) The attorney general shall bring a declaratory judgment action challenging the constitutionality of section 13 within 60 days of the publication of this act in the statute book.
  - (b) An appeal of a district court decision shall be made directly to the Kansas supreme court under provisions of subsection (b) of K.S.A. 60-2102, and amendments thereto.
  - Sec. 16. K.S.A. 39-7,106 is hereby amended to read as follows: 39-7,106. (a) Within the limits of appropriations therefor and to the extent allowed under any applicable federal law or rule and regulation adopted pursuant thereto, the secretary shall provide the support service component of the KanWork program to facilitate public assistance recipient participation and movement toward self-sufficiency.
    - (b) Support services shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - (1) Child care. Child care services shall be provided to every participant in the KanWork program who is in need of such services through reimbursement of private child care providers or through state child care centers. Reimbursement to private child care providers shall not exceed the

 fee charged to private clients for the same service and may be lower than such fee if the private child care provider agrees to charge a lower fee. *Preference shall be given to families in which at least one parent is a veteran.* 

- (2) Transportation assistance. Transportation expenses in a monthly amount to be established by the secretary by rules and regulations shall be paid to a participant who needs such assistance in order to participate in the KanWork program.
- (3) Family mentor program in which volunteers work directly with participants on home management, budgeting, nutrition, hygiene, child care, family planning and other home-related needs which affect self-sufficiency.
- (c) As used in this section, "veteran" means a resident of Kansas who has been separated on or after September 11, 2001, under honorable conditions from any branch of the armed forces of the United States after having served on active duty for 181 consecutive days or by reason of disability incurred while serving on active duty.
- Sec. 17. K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 76-729 is hereby amended to read as follows: 76-729. (a) Persons enrolling at the state educational institutions under the control and supervision of the state board of regents who, if such persons are adults, have been domiciliary residents of the state of Kansas or, if such persons are minors, whose parents have been domiciliary residents of the state of Kansas for at least 12 months prior to enrollment for any term or session at a state educational institution are residents for fee purposes. A person who has been a resident of the state of Kansas for fee purposes and who leaves the state of Kansas to become a resident of another state or country shall retain status as a resident of the state of Kansas for fee purposes if the person returns to domiciliary residency in the state of Kansas within 12 months of departure. All other persons are nonresidents of the state of Kansas for fee purposes.
- 31 (b) The state board of regents may authorize the following persons, or 32 any class or classes thereof, and their spouses and dependents to pay an 33 amount equal to resident fees:
  - (1) Persons who are employees of a state educational institution;
  - (2) persons who are in military service;
  - (3) persons who are domiciliary residents of the state, who were in active military service prior to becoming domiciliary residents of the state, who were present in the state for a period of not less than two years during their tenure in active military service, whose domiciliary residence was established in the state within 30 days of discharge or retirement from active military service under honorable conditions, but whose domiciliary residence was not timely enough established to meet the residence duration requirement of subsection (a);

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— (4) persons having special domestic relations circumstances;

 $\frac{(5)}{(3)}$  persons who have lost their resident status within six months of enrollment:

(6) (4) persons who are not domiciliary residents of the state, who have graduated from a high school accredited by the state board of education within six months of enrollment, who were domiciliary residents of the state at the time of graduation from high school or within 12 months prior to graduation from high school, and who are entitled to admission at a state educational institution pursuant to K.S.A. 72-116, and amendments thereto;

(7) (5) persons who are domiciliary residents of the state, whose domiciliary residence was established in the state for the purpose of accepting, upon recruitment by an employer, or retaining, upon transfer required by an employer, a position of full-time employment at a place of employment in Kansas, but the domiciliary residence of whom was not timely enough established to meet the residence duration requirement of subsection (a), and who are not otherwise eligible for authorization to pay an amount equal to resident fees under this subsection; *and* 

(8) (6) persons who have graduated from a high school accredited by the state board of education within six months of enrollment and who, at the time of graduation from such a high school or while enrolled and in attendance at such a high school prior to graduation therefrom, were dependents of a person in military service within the state; if the person, whose dependent is eligible for authorization to pay an amount equal to resident fees under this provision, does not establish domiciliary residence in the state upon retirement from military service, eligibility of the dependent for authorization to pay an amount equal to resident fees shall lapse, and

—(9) persons who have retired or have been honorably discharged from military service, had a permanent change of station order for active duty in Kansas during such military service and live in Kansas at the time of enrollment.

- (c) (1) The state board of regents shall authorize the following class of persons to pay an amount equal to resident fees:
- (1) Any dependent or spouse of a person in military service who is reassigned from Kansas to another duty station so long as such dependent or spouse continues to reside in Kansas. (2) So long as a person remains continuously enrolled, exclusive of summer sessions, a person who qualifies to pay resident fees by virtue of being a spouse or dependent of a person in military service shall not lose such status because of a divorce or the death of a spouse.
- (2) Any person who has retired from military service or has been honorably discharged from military service who is living in Kansas at the

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1 time of enrollment.

- (3) Any person who is in the military service and living in Kansas at the time of enrollment.
  - (d) As used in this section:
- (1) "Parents" means and includes natural parents, adoptive parents, stepparents, guardians and custodians.
- (2) "Guardian" has the meaning ascribed thereto by K.S.A. 59-3051, and amendments thereto.
  - (3) "Custodian" means a person, agency or association granted legal custody of a minor under the *revised* Kansas code for care of children.
  - (4) "Domiciliary resident" means a person who has present and fixed residence in Kansas where the person intends to remain for an indefinite period and to which the person intends to return following absence.
  - (5) "Full-time employment" means employment requiring at least 1,500 hours of work per year.
  - (6) "Dependent" means: (A) A birth child, adopted child or stepchild; or
  - (B) any child other than the foregoing who is actually dependent in whole or in part on the person in military service and who is related to such individual by marriage or consanguinity.
  - (7) "Military service" means any active service in any armed service of the United States and any active state or federal service in the Kansas army or air national guard.
- 24 Sec. 18. K.S.A. 21-4015 and 39-7,106 and K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 76-729 and 76-729a are hereby repealed.
- Sec. 19. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.