

SESSION OF 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 305

As Amended by House Committee on
Higher Education

Brief*

SB 305 would amend statutes governing the National Guard Educational Assistance Program. The bill would eliminate the residency requirement for the assistance program and increase the allowable years of service to 20. Under current law, recipients of the award must be a Kansas resident who is a member of the Kansas National Guard with no more than 15 years of service. Individuals are not eligible if they have a baccalaureate or higher degree or are eligible for federal educational benefits.

Background

The bill as introduced would have amended statutes governing eligibility for the Kansas Comprehensive Grant Program by allowing grants to be awarded to students at institutions accredited by the Association for Biblical Higher Education through FY 2011. The Comprehensive Grant Program provides need-based grants to full-time undergraduate students. Under current law, only students at institutions accredited by the North Central Association may receive the grant. Barclay College is the only institution in Kansas which is accredited by the Association for Biblical Higher Education, but not also accredited by the North Central Association.

Proponents of the bill testifying at the Senate Education Committee hearing on the bill included Senator Ruth Teichman who presented written testimony from the President and several students at Barclay College. Written testimony in opposition to the bill was submitted by the Kansas Independent College Association and the Board of Regents.

The Senate Committee amended SB 305 as introduced to provide for a five-year sunset and to reflect the name change of the _____

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

Association for Biblical Higher Education.

The House Higher Education Committee removed the provisions of the bill as amended by the Senate Committee and added provisions regarding the National Guard Educational Assistance Program.

According to the fiscal note from the Division of the Budget for the bill as introduced, there would be no fiscal impact to the state. The overall State General Fund appropriation for the program would not change.