

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MR. SPEAKER and MR. PRESIDENT: Your committee on conference on Senate amendments to **HB 2760** submits the following report:

The House accedes to all Senate amendments to the bill, and your committee on conference further agrees to amend the bill as printed with Senate Committee amendments, as follows:

On page 3, following line 10, by inserting:

"New Sec. 4. (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Service-connected disability" means, regarding disability or death, that such disability was incurred or aggravated, or that such death resulted from a disability incurred or aggravated, in the line of duty in the active military, naval, air or space service; and

(2) "veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval, air or space service and was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

(b) No state agency or municipality, as defined in K.S.A. 12-105a, and amendments thereto, shall request or demand any other document or improvise an authentication procedure to determine eligibility for any benefit derived from a service-connected disability suffered by a Kansas veteran, except the following:

- (1) A United States passport as defined in 22 C.F.R. 53.1;
- (2) an unexpired real I.D. state driver's license as defined in 6 C.F.R. 37;
- (3) a veterans health identity card issued by the United States department of veterans affairs;
- (4) a veterans identification card issued under the authority of 38 U.S.C. § 5706;
- (5) a common access card issued by the United States department of defense; or
- (6) any department of defense identity cards listed in 32 C.F.R. 161(b).

New Sec. 5. (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Non-service-connected" means, regarding disability or death, that such disability was not incurred or aggravated, or that death did not result from a disability incurred or aggravated, in the line of duty in the active military, naval, air or space service.

(2) "Service-connected" means, regarding disability or death, that such disability was incurred or aggravated, or that death resulted from a disability incurred or aggravated, in the line of duty in the active military, naval, air or space service.

(3) "Veteran" means a person who served in the active military, naval, air or space service, including those groups and individuals listed under 38 C.F.R. 3.7, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

(b) Findings of a service-connected disability or death by federal officials shall be probative. State agencies and municipalities, as defined in K.S.A. 12-105a, and amendments thereto, shall not:

(1) Request or demand a veteran's private health information for the purpose of determining eligibility for service-connected or non-service-connected disability benefits;

(2) reconsider disability determinations made by:

(A) The secretary of the army, with respect to matters concerning the army;

(B) the secretary of the navy, with respect to matters concerning the navy and the marine corps;

(C) the secretary of the air force, with respect to matters concerning the air force or the space force;

(D) the secretary of homeland security, with respect to matters concerning the coast guard;

(E) the secretary of health and human services, with respect to matters concerning the

public health service; and

(F) the secretary of commerce, with respect to matters concerning the national oceanic and atmospheric administration or its predecessor, the coast and geodetic survey;

(3) reconsider the disability determinations made under the authority of a secretary defined in subsection (b)(2) or the secretary of veterans affairs; or

(4) request or demand a veteran voluntarily seek a re-evaluation of such veteran's existing service-connected disability claim.

(c) A veteran or such veteran's surviving family members may be asked to document such veteran's service-connected status regarding the disability or death of such veteran or service member with:

(1) A department of veterans affairs benefits summary letter with service-connected disability marked "yes";

(2) a military service physical evaluation board document, issued under the authority of 10 U.S.C. § 1222(a), with the finding of "unfit for duty"; or

(3) a posthumous purple heart decoration, a military posthumous award citation, military orders or official casualty notification correspondence from the department of defense.

(d) A veteran's percentage of disability evaluation finding shall be disclosed by such veteran or such veteran's family members if germane to the Kansas statutory limitation in question.

Sec. 6. K.S.A. 8-160 is hereby amended to read as follows: 8-160. As used in this act, ~~the term~~ "disabled veteran" means a person who ~~has~~:

~~(a) Served in the armed forces of the United States and who is entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability of at least 50% and the laws administered by the veterans administration or who is entitled to compensation for the loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or~~

both feet or one or both hands, or for permanent visual impairment of both eyes to a prescribed degree active military, naval, air or space service and who was discharged or released therefrom under an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions;

(b) received a disability that was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, air or space service; and

(c) has a service-connected evaluation percentage equal to or greater than 50%, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. § 1101 et seq. or 10 U.S.C. § 1201 et seq.

Sec. 7. K.S.A. 8-243 is hereby amended to read as follows: 8-243. (a) Upon payment of the required fee, the division shall issue to every applicant qualifying under the provisions of this act the driver's license as applied for by the applicant. Such license shall bear the class or classes of motor vehicles ~~which~~ that the licensee is entitled to drive, a distinguishing number assigned to the licensee, the full legal name, date of birth, gender, address of principal residence and a brief description of the licensee, either: (1) A digital color image or photograph; or (2) a laser engraved photograph of the licensee, a facsimile of the signature of the licensee and the statement provided for in subsection (b). No driver's license shall be valid until it has been signed by the licensee. All drivers' licenses issued to persons under the age of 21 years shall be readily distinguishable from licenses issued to persons age 21 years or older. In addition, all drivers' licenses issued to persons under the age of 18 years shall also be readily distinguishable from licenses issued to persons age 18 years or older. The secretary of revenue shall implement a vertical format to make drivers' licenses issued to persons under the age of 21 more readily distinguishable. Except as otherwise provided, no driver's license issued by the division shall be valid until either: (1) A digital color image or photograph; or (2) a laser engraved photograph of such licensee has been taken and verified before being placed on the driver's license. The secretary of revenue shall prescribe a fee of not more than \$8 and upon the payment of such fee,

the division shall cause either: (1) A digital color image or photograph; or (2) a laser engraved photograph of such applicant to be placed on the driver's license. Upon payment of such fee prescribed by the secretary of revenue, plus payment of the fee required by K.S.A. 8-246, and amendments thereto, for issuance of a new license, the division shall issue to such licensee a new license containing either: (1) A digital color image or photograph; or (2) a laser engraved photograph of such licensee. A driver's license ~~which~~ that does not contain the principal address as required may be issued to persons who are program participants pursuant to K.S.A. 75-455, and amendments thereto, upon payment of the fee required by K.S.A. 8-246, and amendments thereto. All Kansas drivers' licenses and identification cards shall have physical security features designed to prevent tampering, counterfeiting or duplication of the document for fraudulent purposes. The secretary of revenue shall incorporate common machine-readable technology into all Kansas drivers' licenses and identification cards.

(b) A Kansas driver's license issued to any person 16 years of age or older who indicated on the person's application that the person wished to make a gift of all or any part of the body of the licensee in accordance with the revised uniform anatomical gift act, K.S.A. 65-3220 through 65-3244, and amendments thereto, shall have the word "Donor" placed on the front of the licensee's driver's license.

(c) Any person who is deaf or hard of hearing may request that the division issue to such person a driver's license which is readily distinguishable from drivers' licenses issued to other drivers and upon such request the division shall issue such license. Drivers' licenses issued to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and under the age of 21 years shall be readily distinguishable from drivers' licenses issued to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and 21 years of age or older. Upon satisfaction of subsection (a), the division shall issue a receipt of application permitting the operation of a vehicle consistent with the requested class, if there are

no other restrictions or limitations, pending the division's verification of the information and production of a driver's license.

(d) A driver's license issued to a person required to be registered under K.S.A. 22-4901 et seq., and amendments thereto, shall be assigned a distinguishing number by the division which will readily indicate to law enforcement officers that such person is a registered offender. The division shall develop a numbering system to implement the provisions of this subsection.

(e) (1) Any person who is a veteran may request that the division issue to such person a driver's license ~~which~~ that shall include the designation "VETERAN" displayed on the front of the driver's license at a location to be determined by the secretary of revenue. In order to receive a license described in this subsection, the veteran ~~must~~ shall provide ~~proof of the veteran's military service and honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions, including~~ a copy of the veteran's ~~DD214 form~~ DD form 214, NGB form 22 or equivalent discharge document showing character of service as honorable or general under honorable conditions.

(2) As used in this subsection, "veteran" means a person who:

~~(A) Has served in: The army, navy, marine corps, air force, coast guard, air or army national guard or any branch of the military reserves of the United States; and~~

~~(B) has been separated from the branch of service in which the person was honorably discharged or received a general discharge under honorable conditions~~ served in the active military, naval, air or space service and who was discharged or released therefrom under an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions.

(3) The director of vehicles may adopt any rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

(f) (1) Any person who submits satisfactory proof to the director of vehicles, on a form

provided by the director, that such person needs assistance with cognition, including, but not limited to, persons with autism spectrum disorder, may request that the division issue to such person a driver's license, that shall note such impairment on the driver's license at a location to be determined by the secretary of revenue.

(2) Satisfactory proof that a person needs assistance with cognition shall include a statement from a person licensed to practice the healing arts in any state, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under K.S.A. 65-1131, and amendments thereto, a licensed physician assistant or a person clinically licensed by the Kansas behavioral sciences regulatory board certifying that such person needs assistance with cognition.

Sec. 8. K.S.A. 8-1324 is hereby amended to read as follows: 8-1324. (a) Any resident who does not hold a current valid Kansas driver's license may make application to the division of vehicles and be issued one identification card.

(b) (1) Each application for an identification card shall include a question asking if the applicant is willing to give such applicant's authorization to be listed as an organ, eye and tissue donor in the Kansas donor registry in accordance with the revised uniform anatomical gift act, K.S.A. 65-3220 through 65-3244, and amendments thereto. The gift would become effective upon the death of the donor.

(2) For the purpose of obtaining an identification card, an applicant shall submit, with the application, proof of age, proof of identity and proof of lawful presence. An applicant shall submit with the application a photo identity document, except that a non-photo identity document is acceptable if it includes both the applicant's full legal name and date of birth, and documentation showing the applicant's name, the applicant's address of principal residence and the applicant's social security account number. The applicant's social security number shall remain confidential and shall not be disclosed, except as provided pursuant to K.S.A. 74-2014,

and amendments thereto. If the applicant does not have a social security number, the applicant shall provide proof of lawful presence and Kansas residency. The division shall assign a distinguishing number to the identification card. Before issuing an identification card to a person, the division shall make reasonable efforts to verify with the issuing agency the issuance, validity and completeness of each document required to be presented by the applicant to prove age, identity and lawful presence.

(c) The division shall not issue an identification card to any person who fails to provide proof that the person is lawfully present in the United States. If an applicant provides evidence of lawful presence as set out in K.S.A. 8-240(b)(2)(E) through (2)(I), and amendments thereto, or is an alien lawfully admitted for temporary residence under K.S.A. 8-240(b)(2)(B), and amendments thereto, the division may only issue a temporary identification card to the person under the following conditions:

~~(A)~~(1) A temporary identification card issued pursuant to this subparagraph shall be valid only during the period of time of the applicant's authorized stay in the United States or, if there is no definite end to the period of authorized stay, a period of one year;

~~(B)~~(2) a temporary identification card issued pursuant to this subparagraph shall clearly indicate that it is temporary and shall state the date upon which it expires;

~~(C)~~(3) no temporary identification card issued pursuant to this subparagraph shall be for a longer period of time than the time period permitted by K.S.A. 8-1325, and amendments thereto; and

~~(D)~~(4) a temporary identification card issued pursuant to this subparagraph may be renewed, subject at the time of renewal, to the same requirements and conditions set forth in this subsection for the issuance of the original temporary identification card.

(d) The division shall not issue an identification card to any person who holds a current

valid Kansas driver's license unless such driver's license has been physically surrendered pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 8-1002(e), and amendments thereto.

(e) The division shall refuse to issue an identification card to a person holding a driver's license or identification card issued by another state without confirmation that the person is terminating or has terminated the license or identification card.

(f) The parent or guardian of an applicant under 16 years of age shall sign the application for an identification card submitted by such applicant.

(g) (1) The division shall require payment of a fee of \$14 at the time application for an identification card is made, except that persons who are 65 or more years of age or who are handicapped, as defined in K.S.A. 8-1,124, and amendments thereto, shall be required to pay a fee of only \$10. In addition to the fees prescribed by this subsection, the division shall require payment of the photo fee established pursuant to K.S.A. 8-243, and amendments thereto, for the cost of the photograph to be placed on the identification card.

(2) The division shall not require or accept payment of application or photo fees under this subsection for any person 17 years of age or older for purposes of meeting the voter identification requirements of K.S.A. 25-2908, and amendments thereto. Such person shall:

(A) Swear under oath that such person desires an identification card in order to vote in an election in Kansas and that such person does not possess any of the forms of identification acceptable under K.S.A. 25-2908, and amendments thereto. The affidavit shall specifically list the acceptable forms of identification under K.S.A. 25-2908, and amendments thereto; and

(B) produce evidence that such person is registered to vote in Kansas.

(3) The secretary of revenue shall adopt rules and regulations in order to implement the provisions of paragraph (2).

(h) All Kansas identification cards shall have physical security features designed to

prevent tampering, counterfeiting or duplication for fraudulent purposes.

(i) For the purposes of K.S.A. 8-1324 through 8-1328, and amendments thereto, a person shall be deemed to be a resident of the state if the person:

- (1) ~~The person~~ Owns, leases or rents a place of domicile in this state;
- (2) ~~the person~~ engages in a trade, business or profession in this state;
- (3) ~~the person~~ is registered to vote in this state;
- (4) ~~the person~~ enrolls the person's child in a school in this state; or
- (5) ~~the person~~ registers the person's motor vehicle in this state.

(j) The division shall require that any person applying for an identification card submit to a mandatory facial image capture. The captured facial image shall be displayed on the front of the applicant's identification card by either:

- (1) A digital color image or photograph; or
- (2) a laser-engraved photograph of the licensee.

(k) (1) Any person who is a veteran may request that the division issue to such person a nondriver identification card ~~which~~ that shall include the designation "VETERAN" displayed on the front of the nondriver identification card at a location to be determined by the secretary of revenue. In order to receive a nondriver identification card described in this subsection, the veteran ~~must~~ shall provide ~~proof of the veteran's military service and honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions, including a copy of the veteran's DD214 form DD form 214, NGB form 22 or equivalent discharge document showing character of service as honorable or general under honorable conditions.~~

(2) As used in this subsection, "veteran" means a person who:

(A) ~~Has served in: The army, navy, marine corps, air force, coast guard, air or army-national guard or any branch of the military reserves of the United States; and~~

~~(B) has been separated from the branch of service in which the person was honorably discharged or received a general discharge under honorable conditions served in the active military, naval, air or space service and who was discharged or released therefrom under an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions.~~

(3) The director of vehicles may adopt any rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

(l) The director of vehicles may issue a temporary identification card to an applicant who cannot provide valid documentary evidence as defined by subsection (c), if the applicant provides compelling evidence proving current lawful presence. Any temporary identification card issued pursuant to this subparagraph shall be valid for one year.

(m) Upon payment of the required fee, the division shall issue to every applicant qualifying under the provisions of this act an identification card. Such identification card shall bear a distinguishing number assigned to the cardholder, the full legal name, date of birth, address of principal residence, a brief description of the cardholder, either:

(1) A digital color image or photograph; or

(2) a laser engraved photograph of the cardholder, and a facsimile of the signature of the cardholder. An identification card ~~which~~ that does not contain the address of principal residence of the cardholder as required may be issued to persons who are program participants pursuant to K.S.A. 75-455, and amendments thereto.

(n) An identification card issued to any person who indicated on the application that the person wished to make an anatomical gift in accordance with the revised uniform anatomical gift act, K.S.A. 65-3220 through 65-3244, and amendments thereto, shall have the word "Donor" placed on the front of the applicant's identification card.

(o) (1) Any person who submits satisfactory proof to the director of vehicles, on a form

provided by the director, that such person needs assistance with cognition, including, but not limited to, persons with autism spectrum disorder, may request that the division issue to such person a nondriver identification card, that shall note such impairment on the nondriver identification card at a location to be determined by the secretary of revenue.

(2) Satisfactory proof that a person needs assistance with cognition shall include a statement from a person licensed to practice the healing arts in any state, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under K.S.A. 65-1131, and amendments thereto, a licensed physician assistant or a person clinically licensed by the Kansas behavioral sciences regulatory board certifying that such person needs assistance with cognition.

(p)-(t) The secretary of revenue shall permit an electronic online renewal of an identification card if the electronic online renewal applicant previously provided documentation of identity, lawful presence and residence to the division for electronic scanning. For purposes of this subsection, the division may rely on the division's most recent, existing color digital image and signature image of the applicant for the nondriver's identification card if the division has such images on file. The determination on whether an electronic online renewal application or equivalent of a nondriver's identification card is permitted shall be made by the director of vehicles or the director's designee. The division shall not renew a nondriver's identification card through an electronic online or equivalent process if the identification card has been previously renewed through an electronic online application in the immediately preceding card's expiration period. No renewal under this subsection shall be granted to any person who is a registered offender pursuant to K.S.A. 22-4901 et seq., and amendments thereto.

~~(2) Prior to February 1, 2023, the division shall report to the house of representatives and the senate committees on transportation regarding the online renewal process of this subsection and the effects of implementing such process.";~~

On page 4, in line 33, by striking "Was a member of the armed services" and inserting "Served in the active military, naval, air or space service and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable"; in line 34, by striking all after "(2)"; in line 35, by striking "conditions" and inserting "received a disability that was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, air or space service"; in line 36, by striking all after "a"; by striking all in line 37; in line 38, by striking all before "equal" and inserting "service-connected evaluation percentage; in line 38, after "equal" by inserting "to"; also in line 38, after "30%" by inserting "pursuant to 38 U.S.C. § 1101 et seq. or 10 U.S.C. § 1201 et seq.";

On page 9, following line 11, by inserting:

"Sec. 12. K.S.A. 44-706 is hereby amended to read as follows: 44-706. The secretary shall examine whether an individual has separated from employment for each week claimed. The secretary shall apply the provisions of this section to the individual's most recent employment prior to the week claimed. An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

(a) If the individual left work voluntarily without good cause attributable to the work or the employer, subject to the other provisions of this subsection. For purposes of this subsection, "good cause" is cause of such gravity that would impel a reasonable, not supersensitive, individual exercising ordinary common sense to leave employment. Good cause requires a showing of good faith of the individual leaving work, including the presence of a genuine desire to work. Failure to return to work after expiration of approved personal or medical leave, or both, shall be considered a voluntary resignation. After a temporary job assignment, failure of an individual to affirmatively request an additional assignment on the next succeeding workday, if required by the employment agreement, after completion of a given work assignment, shall constitute leaving work voluntarily. The disqualification shall begin the day following the separation and shall continue until after the individual has become reemployed and has had

earnings from insured work of at least three times the individual's weekly benefit amount. An individual shall not be disqualified under this subsection if:

(1) The individual was forced to leave work because of illness or injury upon the advice of a licensed and practicing healthcare provider and, upon learning of the necessity for absence, immediately notified the employer thereof, or the employer consented to the absence, and after recovery from the illness or injury, when recovery was certified by a practicing health care provider, the individual returned to the employer and offered to perform services and the individual's regular work or comparable and suitable work was not available. As used in this paragraph "healthcare provider" means any person licensed by the proper licensing authority of any state to engage in the practice of medicine and surgery, osteopathy, chiropractic, dentistry, optometry, podiatry or psychology;

(2) the individual left temporary work to return to the regular employer;

(3) the individual left work to ~~enlist~~ enter active service in the armed forces of the United States; but was rejected or delayed from entry;

(4) The spouse of an individual who is a member of the armed forces of the United States who left work because of the voluntary or involuntary transfer of the individual's spouse from one job to another job, ~~which that~~ is for the same employer or for a different employer, at a geographic location ~~which that~~ makes it unreasonable for the individual to continue work at the individual's job. For the purposes of this provision ~~the term~~ "member of the armed forces" means ~~active duty~~ a person performing active service in the army, navy, marine corps, air force, space force, coast guard or any ~~branch~~ component of the military reserves of the United States;

(5) the individual left work because of hazardous working conditions; in determining whether or not working conditions are hazardous for an individual, the degree of risk involved to the individual's health, safety and morals, the individual's physical fitness and prior training and

the working conditions of workers engaged in the same or similar work for the same and other employers in the locality shall be considered; as used in this paragraph, "hazardous working conditions" means working conditions that could result in a danger to the physical or mental well-being of the individual; each determination as to whether hazardous working conditions exist shall include, but shall not be limited to, a consideration of: (A) The safety measures used or the lack thereof; and (B) the condition of equipment or lack of proper equipment; no work shall be considered hazardous if the working conditions surrounding the individual's work are the same or substantially the same as the working conditions generally prevailing among individuals performing the same or similar work for other employers engaged in the same or similar type of activity;

(6) the individual left work to enter training approved under section 236(a)(1) of the federal trade act of 1974, provided the work left is not of a substantially equal or higher skill level than the individual's past adversely affected employment, as defined for purposes of the federal trade act of 1974, and wages for such work are not less than 80% of the individual's average weekly wage as determined for the purposes of the federal trade act of 1974;

(7) the individual left work because of unwelcome harassment of the individual by the employer or another employee of which the employing unit had knowledge and that would impel the average worker to give up such worker's employment;

(8) the individual left work to accept better work; each determination as to whether or not the work accepted is better work shall include, but shall not be limited to, consideration of: (A) The rate of pay, the hours of work and the probable permanency of the work left as compared to the work accepted; (B) the cost to the individual of getting to the work left in comparison to the cost of getting to the work accepted; and (C) the distance from the individual's place of residence to the work accepted in comparison to the distance from the individual's residence to

the work left;

(9) the individual left work as a result of being instructed or requested by the employer, a supervisor or a fellow employee to perform a service or commit an act in the scope of official job duties ~~which~~ that is in violation of an ordinance or statute;

(10) the individual left work because of a substantial violation of the work agreement by the employing unit and, before the individual left, the individual had exhausted all remedies provided in such agreement for the settlement of disputes before terminating. For the purposes of this paragraph, a demotion based on performance does not constitute a violation of the work agreement;

(11) after making reasonable efforts to preserve the work, the individual left work due to a personal emergency of such nature and compelling urgency that it would be contrary to good conscience to impose a disqualification; or

(12) (A) the individual left work due to circumstances resulting from domestic violence, including:

(i) The individual's reasonable fear of future domestic violence at or en route to or from the individual's place of employment;

(ii) the individual's need to relocate to another geographic area in order to avoid future domestic violence;

(iii) the individual's need to address the physical, psychological and legal impacts of domestic violence;

(iv) the individual's need to leave employment as a condition of receiving services or shelter from an agency ~~which~~ that provides support services or shelter to victims of domestic violence; or

(v) the individual's reasonable belief that termination of employment is necessary to

avoid other situations ~~which~~ that may cause domestic violence and to provide for the future safety of the individual or the individual's family.

(B) An individual may prove the existence of domestic violence by providing one of the following:

(i) A restraining order or other documentation of equitable relief by a court of competent jurisdiction;

(ii) a police record documenting the abuse;

(iii) documentation that the abuser has been convicted of one or more of the offenses enumerated in articles 34 and 35 of chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, prior to their repeal, or articles 54 or 55 of chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, or K.S.A. 21-6104, 21-6325, 21-6326 or 21-6418 through 21-6422, and amendments thereto, where the victim was a family or household member;

(iv) medical documentation of the abuse;

(v) a statement provided by a counselor, social worker, health care provider, clergy, shelter worker, legal advocate, domestic violence or sexual assault advocate or other professional who has assisted the individual in dealing with the effects of abuse on the individual or the individual's family; or

(vi) a sworn statement from the individual attesting to the abuse.

(C) No evidence of domestic violence experienced by an individual, including the individual's statement and corroborating evidence, shall be disclosed by the department of labor unless consent for disclosure is given by the individual.

(b) If the individual has been discharged or suspended for misconduct connected with the individual's work. The disqualification shall begin the day following the separation and shall continue until after the individual becomes reemployed and in cases where the disqualification is

due to discharge for misconduct has had earnings from insured work of at least three times the individual's determined weekly benefit amount, except that if an individual is discharged for gross misconduct connected with the individual's work, such individual shall be disqualified for benefits until such individual again becomes employed and has had earnings from insured work of at least eight times such individual's determined weekly benefit amount. In addition, all wage credits attributable to the employment from which the individual was discharged for gross misconduct connected with the individual's work shall be canceled. No such cancellation of wage credits shall affect prior payments made as a result of a prior separation.

(1) ~~For the purposes of this~~ As used in this subsection, "misconduct" ~~is defined as~~ means a violation of a duty or obligation reasonably owed the employer as a condition of employment including, but not limited to, a violation of a company rule, including a safety rule, if: (A) The individual knew or should have known about the rule; (B) the rule was lawful and reasonably related to the job; and (C) the rule was fairly and consistently enforced.

(2) (A) Failure of the employee to notify the employer of an absence and an individual's leaving work prior to the end of such individual's assigned work period without permission shall be considered prima facie evidence of a violation of a duty or obligation reasonably owed the employer as a condition of employment.

(B) For the purposes of this subsection, misconduct shall include, but not be limited to, violation of the employer's reasonable attendance expectations if the facts show:

(i) The individual was absent or tardy without good cause;

(ii) the individual had knowledge of the employer's attendance expectation; and

(iii) the employer gave notice to the individual that future absence or tardiness may or will result in discharge.

(C) For the purposes of this subsection, if an employee disputes being absent or tardy

without good cause, the employee shall present evidence that a majority of the employee's absences or tardiness were for good cause. If the employee alleges that the employee's repeated absences or tardiness were the result of health related issues, such evidence shall include documentation from a licensed and practicing healthcare provider as defined in subsection (a)(1).

(3) (A) The term "gross misconduct" as used in this subsection shall be construed to mean conduct evincing extreme, willful or wanton misconduct as defined by this subsection. Gross misconduct shall include, but not be limited to: (i) Theft; (ii) fraud; (iii) intentional damage to property; (iv) intentional infliction of personal injury; or (v) any conduct that constitutes a felony.

(B) For the purposes of this subsection, the following shall be conclusive evidence of gross misconduct:

(i) The use of alcoholic liquor, cereal malt beverage or a nonprescribed controlled substance by an individual while working;

(ii) the impairment caused by alcoholic liquor, cereal malt beverage or a nonprescribed controlled substance by an individual while working;

(iii) a positive breath alcohol test or a positive chemical test, provided if:

(a) The test was either:

(1) Required by law and was administered pursuant to the drug free workplace act, 41 U.S.C. § 701 et seq.;

(2) administered as part of an employee assistance program or other drug or alcohol treatment program in which the employee was participating voluntarily or as a condition of further employment;

(3) requested pursuant to a written policy of the employer of which the employee had knowledge and was a required condition of employment;

(4) required by law and the test constituted a required condition of employment for the individual's job; or

(5) there was reasonable suspicion to believe that the individual used, had possession of, or was impaired by alcoholic liquor, cereal malt beverage or a nonprescribed controlled substance while working;

(b) the test sample was collected either:

(1) As prescribed by the drug free workplace act, 41 U.S.C. § 701 et seq.;

(2) as prescribed by an employee assistance program or other drug or alcohol treatment program in which the employee was participating voluntarily or as a condition of further employment;

(3) as prescribed by the written policy of the employer of which the employee had knowledge and ~~which that~~ constituted a required condition of employment;

(4) as prescribed by a test ~~which that~~ was required by law and which constituted a required condition of employment for the individual's job; or

(5) at a time contemporaneous with the events establishing probable cause;

(c) the collecting and labeling of a chemical test sample was performed by a licensed health care professional or any other individual certified pursuant to paragraph (b)(3)(A)(iii)(f) or authorized to collect or label test samples by federal or state law, or a federal or state rule or regulation having the force or effect of law, including law enforcement personnel;

(d) the chemical test was performed by a laboratory approved by the United States department of health and human services or licensed by the department of health and environment, except that a blood sample may be tested for alcohol content by a laboratory commonly used for that purpose by state law enforcement agencies;

(e) the chemical test was confirmed by gas chromatography, gas chromatography-mass

spectroscopy or other comparably reliable analytical method, except that no such confirmation is required for a blood alcohol sample or a breath alcohol test;

(f) the breath alcohol test was administered by an individual trained to perform breath tests, the breath testing instrument used was certified and operated strictly according to a description provided by the manufacturers and the reliability of the instrument performance was assured by testing with alcohol standards; and

(g) the foundation evidence establishes, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the test results were from the sample taken from the individual;

(iv) an individual's refusal to submit to a chemical test or breath alcohol test, ~~provided~~ if:

(a) The test meets the standards of the drug free workplace act, 41 U.S.C. § 701 et seq.;

(b) the test was administered as part of an employee assistance program or other drug or alcohol treatment program in which the employee was participating voluntarily or as a condition of further employment;

(c) the test was otherwise required by law and the test constituted a required condition of employment for the individual's job;

(d) the test was requested pursuant to a written policy of the employer of which the employee had knowledge and was a required condition of employment; or

(e) there was reasonable suspicion to believe that the individual used, possessed or was impaired by alcoholic liquor, cereal malt beverage or a nonprescribed controlled substance while working; and

(v) an individual's dilution or other tampering of a chemical test.

(C) For purposes of this subsection:

(i) "Alcohol concentration" means the number of grams of alcohol per 210 liters of

breath;

(ii) "alcoholic liquor" means the same as ~~provided~~ defined in K.S.A. 41-102, and amendments thereto;

(iii) "cereal malt beverage" means the same as ~~provided~~ defined in K.S.A. 41-2701, and amendments thereto;

(iv) "chemical test" includes, but is not limited to, tests of urine, blood or saliva;

(v) "controlled substance" means the same as ~~provided~~ defined in K.S.A. 21-5701, and amendments thereto;

(vi) "required by law" means required by a federal or state law, a federal or state rule or regulation having the force and effect of law, a county resolution or municipal ordinance, or a policy relating to public safety adopted in an open meeting by the governing body of any special district or other local governmental entity;

(vii) "positive breath test" means a test result showing an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater, or the levels listed in 49 C.F.R. part 40, if applicable, unless the test was administered as part of an employee assistance program or other drug or alcohol treatment program in which the employee was participating voluntarily or as a condition of further employment, in which case "positive chemical test" ~~shall mean~~ means a test result showing an alcohol concentration at or above the levels provided for in the assistance or treatment program; and

(viii) "positive chemical test" means a chemical result showing a concentration at or above the levels listed in K.S.A. 44-501, and amendments thereto, or 49 C.F.R. part 40, as applicable, for the drugs or abuse listed therein, unless the test was administered as part of an employee assistance program or other drug or alcohol treatment program in which the employee was participating voluntarily or as a condition of further employment, in which case "positive chemical test" means a chemical result showing a concentration at or above the levels provided

for in the assistance or treatment program.

(4) An individual shall not be disqualified under this subsection if the individual is discharged under the following circumstances:

(A) The employer discharged the individual after learning the individual was seeking other work or when the individual gave notice of future intent to quit, except that the individual shall be disqualified after the time ~~at which~~ that such individual intended to quit and any individual who commits misconduct after such individual gives notice to such individual's intent to quit shall be disqualified;

(B) the individual was making a ~~good-faith~~ good faith effort to do the assigned work but was discharged due to:

(i) Inefficiency;

(ii) unsatisfactory performance due to inability, incapacity or lack of training or experience;

(iii) isolated instances of ordinary negligence or inadvertence;

(iv) ~~good-faith~~ good faith errors in judgment or discretion; or

(v) unsatisfactory work or conduct due to circumstances beyond the individual's control; or

(C) the individual's refusal to perform work in excess of the contract of hire.

(c) If the individual has failed, without good cause, to either apply for suitable work when so directed by the employment office of the secretary of labor, or to accept suitable work when offered to the individual by the employment office, the secretary of labor, or an employer, such disqualification shall begin with the week in which such failure occurred and shall continue until the individual becomes reemployed and has had earnings from insured work of at least three times such individual's determined weekly benefit amount. In determining whether or not

any work is suitable for an individual, the secretary of labor, or a person or persons designated by the secretary, shall consider the degree of risk involved to health, safety and morals, physical fitness and prior training, experience and prior earnings, length of unemployment and prospects for securing local work in the individual's customary occupation or work for which the individual is reasonably ~~fitted~~ fit by training or experience, and the distance of the available work from the individual's residence. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this act, an otherwise eligible individual shall not be disqualified for refusing an offer of suitable employment, or failing to apply for suitable employment when notified by an employment office, or for leaving the individual's most recent work accepted during approved training, including training approved under section 236(a)(1) of the trade act of 1974, if the acceptance of or applying for suitable employment or continuing such work would require the individual to terminate approved training and no work shall be deemed suitable and benefits shall not be denied under this act to any otherwise eligible individual for refusing to accept new work under any of the following conditions:

(1) If the position offered is vacant due directly to a strike, lockout or other labor dispute;

(2) if the remuneration, hours or other conditions of the work offered are substantially less favorable to the individual than those prevailing for similar work in the locality;

(3) if as a condition of being employed, the individual would be required to join or to resign from or refrain from joining any labor organization; and

(4) if the individual left employment as a result of domestic violence, and the position offered does not reasonably accommodate the individual's physical, psychological, safety, or legal needs relating to such domestic violence.

(d) For any week with respect to which the secretary of labor, or a person or persons

designated by the secretary, finds that the individual's unemployment is due to a stoppage of work ~~which that~~ exists because of a labor dispute or there would have been a work stoppage had normal operations not been maintained with other personnel previously and currently employed by the same employer at the factory, establishment or other premises at which the individual is or was last employed, except that this subsection (d) shall not apply if it is shown to the satisfaction of the secretary of labor, or a person or persons designated by the secretary, that:

(1) The individual is not participating in or financing or directly interested in the labor dispute ~~which that~~ caused the stoppage of work; and

(2) the individual does not belong to a grade or class of workers of which, immediately before the commencement of the stoppage, there were members employed at the premises ~~at which where~~ the stoppage occurs any of whom are participating in or financing or directly interested in the dispute. If in any case separate branches of work ~~which that~~ are commonly conducted as separate businesses in separate premises are conducted in separate departments of the same premises, each such department shall, for the purpose of this subsection be deemed to be a separate factory, establishment or other premises. For the purposes of this subsection, failure or refusal to cross a picket line or refusal for any reason during the continuance of such labor dispute to accept the individual's available and customary work at the factory, establishment or other premises where the individual is or was last employed shall be considered as participation and interest in the labor dispute.

(e) For any week ~~with respect to which~~ or a part of the week in which the individual has received or is seeking unemployment benefits under the unemployment compensation law of any other state or of the United States, except that if the appropriate agency of such other state or the United States finally determines that the individual is not entitled to such unemployment benefits, this disqualification shall not apply.

(f) For any week ~~with respect to~~ in which the individual is entitled to receive any unemployment allowance or compensation granted by the United States under an act of congress ~~to ex-service men and women~~ former members of the armed forces in recognition of former service with the military ~~or~~, naval, air or space services of the United States.

(g) If the individual, or another in such individual's behalf with the knowledge of the individual, has knowingly made a false statement or representation, or has knowingly failed to disclose a material fact to obtain or increase benefits under this act or any other unemployment compensation law administered by the secretary of labor, unless the individual has repaid the full amount of the overpayment as determined by the secretary or the secretary's designee, including, but not limited to, the total amount of money erroneously paid as benefits or unlawfully obtained, interest, penalties and any other costs or fees provided by law. If the individual has made such repayment, the individual shall be disqualified for a period of one year for the first occurrence or five years for any subsequent occurrence, beginning with the first day following the date the department of labor confirmed the individual has successfully repaid the full amount of the overpayment. In addition to the penalties set forth in K.S.A. 44-719, and amendments thereto, an individual who has knowingly made a false statement or representation or who has knowingly failed to disclose a material fact to obtain or increase benefits under this act or any other unemployment compensation law administered by the secretary of labor shall be liable for a penalty in the amount equal to 25% of the amount of benefits unlawfully received. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, such penalty shall be deposited into the employment security trust fund. No person who is a victim of identify theft shall be subject to the provisions of this subsection. The secretary shall investigate all cases of an alleged false statement or representation or failure to disclose a material fact to ensure no victim of identity theft is disqualified, required to repay or subject to any penalty as provided by this subsection as a result

of identity theft.

(h) For any week ~~with respect to~~ in which the individual is receiving compensation for temporary total disability or permanent total disability under the workmen's compensation law of any state or under a similar law of the United States.

(i) For any week of unemployment on the basis of service in an instructional, research or principal administrative capacity for an educational institution as defined in K.S.A. 44-703(v), and amendments thereto, if such week begins during the period between two successive academic years or terms or, when an agreement provides instead for a similar period between two regular but not successive terms during such period or during a period of paid sabbatical leave provided for in the individual's contract, if the individual performs such services in the first of such academic years or terms and there is a contract or a reasonable assurance that such individual will perform services in any such capacity for any educational institution in the second of such academic years or terms.

(j) For any week of unemployment on the basis of service in any capacity other than service in an instructional, research, or administrative capacity in an educational institution, as defined in K.S.A. 44-703(v), and amendments thereto, if such week begins during the period between two successive academic years or terms if the individual performs such services in the first of such academic years or terms and there is a reasonable assurance that the individual will perform such services in the second of such academic years or terms, except that if benefits are denied to the individual under this subsection and the individual was not offered an opportunity to perform such services for the educational institution for the second of such academic years or terms, such individual shall be entitled to a retroactive payment of benefits for each week for which the individual filed a timely claim for benefits and ~~for which~~ such benefits were denied solely by reason of this subsection.

(k) For any week of unemployment on the basis of service in any capacity for an educational institution as defined in K.S.A. 44-703(v), and amendments thereto, if such week begins during an established and customary vacation period or holiday recess, if the individual performs services in the period immediately before such vacation period or holiday recess and there is a reasonable assurance that such individual will perform such services in the period immediately following such vacation period or holiday recess.

(l) For any week of unemployment on the basis of any services, ~~substantially all of which consist~~ consisting of participating in sports or athletic events or training or preparing to so participate, if such week begins during the period between two successive sport seasons or similar period if such individual performed services in the first of such seasons or similar periods and there is a reasonable assurance that such individual will perform such services in the later of such seasons or similar periods.

(m) For any week on the basis of services performed by an alien unless such alien is an individual who was lawfully admitted for permanent residence at the time such services were performed, was lawfully present for purposes of performing such services, or was permanently residing in the United States under color of law at the time such services were performed, including an alien who was lawfully present in the United States as a result of the application of the provisions of section 212(d)(5) of the federal immigration and nationality act. Any data or information required of individuals applying for benefits to determine whether benefits are not payable to them because of their alien status shall be uniformly required from all applicants for benefits. In the case of an individual whose application for benefits would otherwise be approved, no determination that benefits to such individual are not payable because of such individual's alien status shall be made except upon a preponderance of the evidence.

(n) For any week in which an individual is receiving a governmental or other pension,

retirement or retired pay, annuity or other similar periodic payment under a plan maintained by a base period employer and to which the entire contributions were provided by such employer, except that:

(1) If the entire contributions to such plan were provided by the base period employer but such individual's weekly benefit amount exceeds such governmental or other pension, retirement or retired pay, annuity or other similar periodic payment attributable to such week, the weekly benefit amount payable to the individual shall be reduced, but not below zero, by an amount equal to the amount of such pension, retirement or retired pay, annuity or other similar periodic payment ~~which~~ that is attributable to such week; or

(2) if only a portion of contributions to such plan were provided by the base period employer, the weekly benefit amount payable to such individual for such week shall be reduced, but not below zero, by the prorated weekly amount of the pension, retirement or retired pay, annuity or other similar periodic payment after deduction of that portion of the pension, retirement or retired pay, annuity or other similar periodic payment that is directly attributable to the percentage of the contributions made to the plan by such individual; or

(3) if the entire contributions to the plan were provided by such individual, or by the individual and an employer, or any person or organization, who is not a base period employer, no reduction in the weekly benefit amount payable to the individual for such week shall be made under this subsection; or

(4) whatever portion of contributions to such plan were provided by the base period employer, if the services performed for the employer by such individual during the base period, or remuneration received for the services, did not affect the individual's eligibility for, or increased the amount of, such pension, retirement or retired pay, annuity or other similar periodic payment, no reduction in the weekly benefit amount payable to the individual for such week

shall be made under this subsection. No reduction shall be made for payments made under the social security act or railroad retirement act of 1974.

(o) For any week of unemployment on the basis of services performed in any capacity and under any of the circumstances described in subsection (i), (j) or (k) that an individual performed in an educational institution while in the employ of an educational service agency. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "educational service agency" means a governmental agency or entity ~~which~~ that is established and operated exclusively for the purpose of providing such services to one or more educational institutions.

(p) For any week of unemployment on the basis of service as a school bus or other motor vehicle driver employed by a private contractor to transport pupils, students and school personnel to or from school-related functions or activities for an educational institution, as defined in K.S.A. 44-703(v), and amendments thereto, if such week begins during the period between two successive academic years or during a similar period between two regular terms, whether or not successive, if the individual has a contract or contracts, or a reasonable assurance thereof, to perform services in any such capacity with a private contractor for any educational institution for both such academic years or both such terms. An individual shall not be disqualified for benefits as provided in this subsection for any week of unemployment on the basis of service as a bus or other motor vehicle driver employed by a private contractor to transport persons to or from nonschool-related functions or activities.

(q) For any week of unemployment on the basis of services performed by the individual in any capacity and under any of the circumstances described in subsection (i), (j), (k) or (o) ~~which~~ that are provided to or on behalf of an educational institution, as defined in K.S.A. 44-703(v), and amendments thereto, while the individual is in the employ of an employer ~~which~~ that is a governmental entity, Indian tribe or any employer described in section 501(c)(3) of the

federal internal revenue code of 1986 ~~which~~ that is exempt from income under section 501(a) of the code.

(r) For any week in which an individual is registered at and attending an established school, training facility or other educational institution, or is on vacation during or between two successive academic years or terms. An individual shall not be disqualified for benefits as provided in this subsection ~~provided~~ if:

(1) The individual was engaged in full-time employment concurrent with the individual's school attendance;

(2) the individual is attending approved training as defined in K.S.A. 44-703(s), and amendments thereto; or

(3) the individual is attending evening, weekend or limited day time classes, ~~which~~ that would not affect availability for work, and is otherwise eligible under K.S.A. 44-705(c), and amendments thereto.

(s) For any week ~~with respect to~~ in which an individual is receiving or has received remuneration in the form of a back pay award or settlement. The remuneration shall be allocated to the week or weeks in the manner as specified in the award or agreement, or in the absence of such specificity in the award or agreement, such remuneration shall be allocated to the week or weeks ~~in~~ for which such remuneration, in the judgment of the secretary, would have been paid.

(1) For any such weeks that an individual receives remuneration in the form of a back pay award or settlement, an overpayment will be established in the amount of unemployment benefits paid and shall be collected from the claimant.

(2) If an employer chooses to withhold from a back pay award or settlement, amounts paid to a claimant while they claimed unemployment benefits, such employer shall pay the department the amount withheld. With respect to such amount, the secretary shall have available

all of the collection remedies authorized or provided in K.S.A. 44-717, and amendments thereto.

(t) (1) Any applicant for or recipient of unemployment benefits who tests positive for unlawful use of a controlled substance or controlled substance analog shall be required to complete a substance abuse treatment program approved by the secretary of labor, secretary of commerce or secretary for children and families, and a job skills program approved by the secretary of labor, secretary of commerce or the secretary for children and families. Subject to applicable federal laws, any applicant for or recipient of unemployment benefits who fails to complete or refuses to participate in the substance abuse treatment program or job skills program as required under this subsection shall be ineligible to receive unemployment benefits until completion of such substance abuse treatment and job skills programs. Upon completion of both substance abuse treatment and job skills programs, such applicant for or recipient of unemployment benefits may be subject to periodic drug screening, as determined by the secretary of labor. Upon a second positive test for unlawful use of a controlled substance or controlled substance analog, an applicant for or recipient of unemployment benefits shall be ordered to complete again a substance abuse treatment program and job skills program, and shall be terminated from unemployment benefits for a period of 12 months, or until such applicant for or recipient of unemployment benefits completes both substance abuse treatment and job skills programs, whichever is later. Upon a third positive test for unlawful use of a controlled substance or controlled substance analog, an applicant for or a recipient of unemployment benefits shall be terminated from receiving unemployment benefits, subject to applicable federal law.

(2) Any individual who has been discharged or refused employment for failing a preemployment drug screen required by an employer may request that the drug screening specimen be sent to a different drug testing facility for an additional drug screening. Any such individual who requests an additional drug screening at a different drug testing facility shall be

required to pay the cost of drug screening.

(u) If the individual was found not to have a disqualifying adjudication or conviction under K.S.A. 39-970 or 65-5117, and amendments thereto, was hired and then was subsequently convicted of a disqualifying felony under K.S.A. 39-970 or 65-5117, and amendments thereto, and discharged pursuant to K.S.A. 39-970 or 65-5117, and amendments thereto. The disqualification shall begin the day following the separation and shall continue until after the individual becomes reemployed and has had earnings from insured work of at least three times the individual's determined weekly benefit amount.

(v) Notwithstanding the provisions of any subsection, an individual shall not be disqualified for such week of part-time employment in a substitute capacity for an educational institution if such individual's most recent employment prior to the individual's benefit year begin date was for a non-educational institution and such individual demonstrates application for work in such individual's customary occupation or for work for which the individual is reasonably ~~fitted~~ fit by training or experience.

Sec. 13. K.S.A. 48-3401 is hereby amended to read as follows: 48-3401. As used in K.S.A. 48-3401 through 48-3405 ~~of this act, and amendments thereto:~~

(a) "~~Military~~ Active service" means service on active duty performed by a licensee ~~in~~ who is a member of the army, navy, marine corps, air force, space force, air or army national guard of any of the several states and territories, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, coast guard or any ~~branch~~ component of the military reserves of the United States.

(b) "License" means any permit, certificate, authority, privilege or registration whether temporary or permanent issued, granted or made by the state of Kansas or any officer, board, department or commission or agency thereof authorizing a person to engage in or practice an occupation or profession in this state.

(c) "Licensee" means a person who had, at the time of commencing a period of military service, a valid, existing license to engage in or practice an occupation or profession in this state. "Licensee" also means a person who, while ~~in military performing active~~ performing active service, obtains a valid license to engage in or practice an occupation or profession in this state.

Sec. 14. K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 48-3407 is hereby amended to read as follows: 48-3407. (a) ~~For the purposes of~~ As used in this section:

(1) "Applicant" means a person who entered into ~~military active~~ active service and separated from such ~~military active~~ service with an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions;

(2) "licensing body" ~~has the meaning ascribed thereto~~ means the same as defined in K.S.A. 74-146, and amendments thereto, except for licensing boards under K.S.A. 65-1116 and 65-6129, and amendments thereto; and

(3) "~~military active~~ service" means service on active duty performed by a member of the army, navy, marine corps, air force, space force, air or army national guard of any state of the several states and territories, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, coast guard or any branch component of the military reserves of the United States.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon presentation of a completed application by an applicant with an honorable discharge for certification or licensure, a licensing body shall accept education, training or service completed in ~~military active~~ service by the applicant towards any educational requirements for certification or licensure in this state if the applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the licensing body that such education, training or service obtained is substantially equivalent to the existing educational requirements of such licensure or certification. No education, training or service shall count towards any examination requirements unless such licensing body has provided a waiver for such requirement. The

licensing body may require the applicant to provide documentation of such education, training or service as deemed necessary by the licensing body to determine substantial equivalency.

(2) A licensing board under this section may accept education, training or service completed in ~~military~~ active service towards any educational requirements for certification or licensure in this state if an applicant was separated from ~~military service~~ the armed forces with a general discharge under honorable conditions.

(c) Each licensing body may adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement and carry out the provisions of this section.

(d) This section shall not apply to the practice of law or the regulation of attorneys pursuant to K.S.A. 7-103, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 15. K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 48-3408 is hereby amended to read as follows: 48-3408. (a) ~~For the purposes of~~ As used in this section:

(1) "Accreditation" ~~has the meaning ascribed thereto~~ means the same as defined in K.S.A. 74-32,163, and amendments thereto;

(2) "accredited educational institution" means an educational institution that has achieved and maintained accreditation;

(3) "applicant" means a person who entered into ~~military~~ active service and separated from such ~~military service~~ the armed forces under conditions other than dishonorable;

(4) "community college" means any community college established under the laws of this state;

(5) "distance education course" means a course consisting solely or primarily of instruction provided online or in other computer-assisted formats, or by correspondence, audiotape, videotape or other media;

(6) "educational institution" means any postsecondary educational institution, private

postsecondary educational institution and out-of-state postsecondary educational institution;

(7) "institute of technology" or "Washburn institute of technology" means the institute of technology at Washburn university;

(8) "licensing body" ~~has the meaning ascribed thereto~~ means the same as defined in K.S.A. 74-146, and amendments thereto;

(9) "~~military~~ active service" means service on active duty performed by a member of the army, navy, marine corps, air force, ~~space force~~, air or army national guard of any ~~state of the several states and territories, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia~~, coast guard or any ~~branch component~~ of the military reserves of the United States;

(10) "municipal university" means Washburn university of Topeka or any other municipal university established under the laws of this state;

(11) "out-of-state postsecondary educational institution" ~~has the meaning ascribed thereto~~ means the same as defined in K.S.A. 74-32,163, and amendments thereto;

(12) "postsecondary educational institution" means any state educational institution, municipal university, community college, technical college and institute of technology, and includes any entity resulting from the consolidation or affiliation of any two or more of such postsecondary educational institutions;

(13) "private postsecondary educational institution" ~~has the meaning ascribed thereto~~ means the same as defined in K.S.A. 74-32,163, and amendments thereto;

(14) "state educational institution" means ~~any state educational institution~~, the same as defined in K.S.A. 76-711, and amendments thereto; and

(15) "technical college" means any technical college established under the laws of this state.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a licensing body may authorize any

educational requirements for certification or licensure in this state to be waived if an applicant provides satisfactory evidence of completion of a distance education course. To qualify for such a waiver, the distance education course must be:

(1) Provided by an accredited educational institution; and

(2) substantially equivalent to the educational standards required for certification or licensure in this state.

(c) Each licensing body may adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement and carry out the provisions of this section.

(d) This section shall not apply to the practice of law or the regulation of attorneys pursuant to K.S.A. 7-103, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 16. K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 48-3601 is hereby amended to read as follows: 48-3601. (a) A current member of the armed forces of the United States or the member's spouse or dependent child who is enrolled or has been accepted for admission at a postsecondary educational institution as a postsecondary student shall be deemed to be a resident of the state for the purpose of tuition and fees for attendance at such postsecondary educational institution.

(b) A person is entitled to pay tuition and fees at an institution of higher education at the rates provided for Kansas residents without regard to the length of time the person has resided in the state if the person:

(1) (A) Files a letter of intent to establish residence in the state with the postsecondary educational institution at which the person intends to register;

(B) lives in the state while attending the postsecondary educational institution; and

(C) is eligible for benefits under the federal post-9/11 veterans educational assistance act of 2008, 38 U.S.C. § 3301 et seq., or any other federal law authorizing educational benefits for veterans;

(2) (A) is a veteran;

(B) was stationed in Kansas for at least 11 months during active service in the armed forces or had established residency in Kansas prior to active service in the armed forces; and

(C) lives in Kansas at the time of enrollment; or

(3) (A) is the spouse or dependent of a veteran who was stationed in Kansas for at least 11 months during such veteran's period of active service in the armed forces or had established residency in Kansas prior to active service in the armed forces; and

(B) lives in Kansas at the time of enrollment.

(c) As used in this section:

(1) "Armed forces" means the army, navy, marine corps, air force, space force, coast guard, Kansas army or air national guard or any ~~branch~~ component of the military reserves of the United States;

(2) "postsecondary educational institution" means the same as ~~provided~~ defined in K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments thereto; and

(3) "veteran" means a person who ~~has been separated from the armed forces and was honorably discharged or received a general discharge under honorable conditions~~ served in the active military, naval, air or space service and who was discharged or released therefrom under an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions.

(d) This section shall be a part of and supplemental to chapter 48 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 17. K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 50-676 is hereby amended to read as follows: 50-676. As used in K.S.A. 50-676 through 50-679, and amendments thereto:

(a) "Elder person" means a person who is 60 years of age or older.

(b) "Disabled person" means a person who has physical or mental impairment, or both,

that substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities.

(c) "Immediate family member" means parent, child, stepchild or spouse.

(d) "Major life activities" includes functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.

(e) "Member of the military armed forces" means ~~a member of the armed forces or national guard on active duty or a member of an active reserve unit in the armed forces or national guard~~ person performing active service in the army, navy, marine corps, air force, space force, coast guard or any component of the military reserves of the United States.

(f) "Physical or mental impairment" means the following:

(1) Any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement or anatomical loss substantially affecting one or more of the following body systems:

(A) Neurological;

(B) musculoskeletal;

(C) special sense organs;

(D) respiratory, including speech organs;

(E) cardiovascular;

(F) reproductive;

(G) digestive;

(H) genitourinary;

(I) hemic and lymphatic;

(J) skin; or

(K) endocrine; or

(2) any mental or psychological disorder, such as intellectual disability, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness and specific learning disabilities.

The term "physical or mental impairment" includes, but is not limited to, orthopedic, visual, language and hearing disorders, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, intellectual disability and emotional illness.

(g) "Protected consumer" means:

- (1) An elder person;
- (2) a disabled person;
- (3) a veteran;
- (4) the surviving spouse of a veteran;
- (5) a member of the ~~military~~ armed forces; and
- (6) an immediate family member of a member of the ~~military~~ armed forces.

(h) "Substantially limits" means:

(1) Unable to perform a major life activity that the average person in the general population can perform; or

(2) significantly restricted as to the condition, manner or duration under which an individual can perform a particular major life activity as compared to the condition, manner or duration under which the average person in the general population can perform that same major life activity. Minor temporary ailments or injuries shall not be considered physical or mental impairments that substantially limit a person's major life activities. Minor temporary ailments include, but are not limited to, colds, influenza or sprains or minor injuries.

(i) "Veteran" means a person who ~~has served in the armed forces of the United States and separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions~~ active military, naval, air or space service and who was discharged or released therefrom under an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions.

Sec. 18. K.S.A. 65-1116 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-1116. (a)

Qualification. An applicant for a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse shall:

(1) Have graduated from an approved school of practical nursing or professional nursing in the United States or its territories or from a school of practical nursing or professional nursing in a foreign country ~~which~~ that is approved by the board as defined in rules and regulations;

(2) have obtained other qualifications not in conflict with this act as the board may prescribe by rule and regulation; and

(3) file with the board a written application for a license.

(b) If the board finds in evaluating any applicant that such applicant is deficient in qualification or in the quality of such applicant's educational experience, the board may require such applicant to fulfill such remedial or other requirements as the board may prescribe.

(c) *License.* (1) The board shall issue a license to an applicant to practice as a practical nurse who has:

(A) Met the qualifications set forth in subsections (a) and (b);

(B) passed a written examination as prescribed by the board; and

(C) no disqualifying factors under K.S.A. 65-1120, and amendments thereto.

(2) The board may issue a license to practice nursing as a practical nurse to an applicant who has been duly licensed as a practical nurse by examination under the laws of another state or territory if, in the opinion of the board, the applicant meets the qualifications required of a practical nurse in this state. Verification of the applicant's licensure status shall be required from the original state of licensure.

(3) The board may authorize the educational requirement under subsection (a)(1) to be waived for an applicant who has attained a passing score on the national council licensure examination for practical nurses and provided evidence to the board of such applicant's practical

nursing experience ~~with the military~~ during a period of active service as a member of the armed forces. To qualify for such a waiver, the applicant ~~must~~ shall have been a member or is a current member of the army, navy, marine corps, air force, space force, air or army national guard of any of the several states and territories, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, coast guard or any branch component of the military reserves of the United States; and separated from such ~~military~~ period of active service with an honorable discharge. Current members of the armed forces are presumed to be serving honorably. If such applicant was separated from such ~~military~~ period of active service with a general discharge under honorable conditions and meets the requirements of this paragraph, the board may authorize the educational requirements under subsection (a)(1) be waived.

(4) *Refresher course.* Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b), an applicant for a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse who has not been licensed to practice practical nursing for five years preceding application shall be required to successfully complete a refresher course as defined by the board.

(5) *Renewal license.* A licensed practical nurse licensed under this act shall be eligible for renewal licenses upon compliance with K.S.A. 65-1117, and amendments thereto.

(6) *Licensure examination within 24 months of graduation.* (A) Persons who do not take the licensure examination within 24 months after graduation shall petition the board for permission prior to taking the licensure examination. The board may require the applicant to submit and complete a plan of study prior to taking the licensure examination.

(B) Persons who are unsuccessful in passing the licensure examination within 24 months after graduation shall petition the board for permission prior to subsequent attempts. The board may require the applicant to submit and complete a plan of study prior to taking the licensure examination a subsequent time. The study plan shall contain subjects related to

deficiencies identified on the failed examination profiles.

(7) An application for initial licensure or endorsement will be held awaiting completion of meeting qualifications for a time period specified in rules and regulations.

(d) *Title and abbreviation.* Any person who holds a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse in this state shall have the right to use the title, "licensed practical nurse," and the abbreviation, "L.P.N." No other person shall assume the title or use the abbreviation or any other words, letters, signs or figures to indicate that the person is a licensed practical nurse.

(e) *Temporary permit.* The board may issue a temporary permit to practice nursing as a licensed practical nurse for a period not to exceed 120 days. A temporary permit for 120 days may be issued to an applicant for licensure as a licensed practical nurse who is a graduate of a practical school of nursing in a foreign country after verification of licensure in that foreign country and approval of educational credentials.

(f) *Exempt license.* The board may issue an exempt license to any licensee as defined in rules and regulations who makes written application for such license on a form provided by the board, who remits a fee as established pursuant to K.S.A. 65-1118, and amendments thereto, and who is not regularly engaged in the practice of practical nursing in Kansas but volunteers practical nursing service or is a charitable health care provider as defined by K.S.A. 75-6102, and amendments thereto. Each exempt licensee shall be subject to all provisions of the nurse practice act, except as otherwise provided in this subsection~~(f)~~. Each exempt license may be renewed biennially subject to the provisions of this section. The holder of the exempt license shall not be required to submit evidence of satisfactory completion of a program of continuing nursing education for renewal. To convert an exempt license to an active license, the exempt licensee shall meet all the requirements of subsection (c) or K.S.A. 65-1117, and amendments thereto. The board shall have authority to write rules and regulations to carry out the provisions

of this section.";

On page 12, following line 21, by inserting:

"Sec. 21. K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 65-6129 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-6129.

(a) (1) Application for an emergency medical service provider certificate shall be made to the board. The board shall not grant an emergency medical service provider certificate unless the applicant meets the following requirements:

(A) (i) Has successfully completed coursework required by the rules and regulations adopted by the board;

(ii) has successfully completed coursework in another jurisdiction that is substantially equivalent to that required by the rules and regulations adopted by the board; or

(iii) has provided evidence that such applicant holds a current and active certification with the national registry of emergency medical technicians, completed emergency medical technician training as a member of the army, navy, marine corps, air force, space force, air or army national guard of any of the several states and territories, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, coast guard or any ~~branch~~ component of the military reserves of the United States that is substantially equivalent to that required by the rules and regulations adopted by the board, and such applicant separated from such ~~military period of active service as a member of the armed forces~~ with an honorable discharge. Applicants currently performing active service as a member of the armed forces are presumed to be serving honorably;

(B) (i) has passed the examination required by the rules and regulations adopted by the board; or

(ii) has passed the certification or licensing examination in another jurisdiction that has been approved by the board; and

(C) has paid an application fee required by the rules and regulations adopted by the

board.

(2) The board may grant an emergency medical service provider certificate to any applicant who meets the requirements under subsection (a)(1)(A)(iii) but was separated from such ~~military~~ period of active service as a member of the armed forces with a general discharge under honorable conditions.

(b) (1) The emergency medical services board may require an original applicant for certification as an emergency medical services provider to be fingerprinted and submit to a state and national criminal history record check. The fingerprints shall be used to identify the applicant and to determine whether the applicant has a record of criminal history in this state or another jurisdiction. The emergency medical services board is authorized to submit the fingerprints to the Kansas bureau of investigation and the federal bureau of investigation for a state and national criminal history record check. The emergency medical services board may use the information obtained from fingerprinting and the applicant's criminal history for purposes of verifying the identification of the applicant and making the official determination of the qualifications and fitness of the applicant to be issued or to maintain a certificate.

(2) Local and state law enforcement officers and agencies shall assist the emergency medical services board in taking the fingerprints of applicants for license, registration, permit or certificate. The Kansas bureau of investigation shall release all records of adult convictions, nonconvictions or adjudications in this state and any other state or country to the emergency medical services board.

(3) The emergency medical services board may fix and collect a fee as may be required by the board in an amount equal to the cost of fingerprinting and the criminal history record check. The emergency medical services board shall remit all moneys received from the fees established by this section to the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-

4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the emergency medical services criminal history and fingerprinting fund.

(4) There is hereby created in the state treasury the emergency medical services criminal history and fingerprinting fund. All moneys credited to the fund shall be used to pay the Kansas bureau of investigation for the processing of fingerprints and criminal history record checks for the emergency medical services board. The fund shall be administered by the emergency medical services board. All expenditures from the fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the chairperson of the emergency medical services board or the chairperson's designee.

(c) The board shall not grant an initial advanced emergency medical technician certificate or paramedic certificate as a result of successful course completion in the state of Kansas, ~~unless~~ except if the applicant for such an initial certificate is certified as an emergency medical technician.

(d) An emergency medical service provider certificate shall expire on the date prescribed by the board. An emergency medical service provider certificate may be renewed for a period of two years upon payment of a fee as prescribed by rule and regulation of the board and upon presentation of satisfactory proof that the emergency medical service provider has successfully completed continuing education as prescribed by the board.

(e) All fees received pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be remitted to the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the emergency medical services operating fund established by

K.S.A. 65-6151, and amendments thereto.

(f) If a person who was previously certified as an emergency medical service provider applies for an emergency medical service provider's certificate after the certificate's expiration, the board may grant a certificate without the person completing an initial course of instruction or passing a certification examination if the person has completed education requirements and has paid a fee as specified in rules and regulations adopted by the board.

(g) The board shall adopt, through rules and regulations, a formal list of graduated sanctions for violations of article 61 of chapter 65 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, that shall specify the number and severity of violations for the imposition of each level of sanction.

Sec. 22. K.S.A. 73-201 is hereby amended to read as follows: 73-201. (a) As used in this act:

(1) "Veteran" means:

(A) ~~Any person who entered the armed forces before October 15, 1976, and separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions, if such person served:~~

~~(i) On active duty during any war (the official dates for war service are April 6, 1917 through July 2, 1921, and December 7, 1941 through April 28, 1952);~~

~~(ii) during the period April 28, 1952 through July 1, 1955;~~

~~(iii) in any campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge or service medal has been authorized; or~~

~~(iv) for more than 180 consecutive days since January 31, 1955, but before October 15, 1976, excluding an initial period of active duty for training under the "six-month" reserve or national guard program;~~

~~(B) any person who entered the armed forces on or after October 15, 1976, and~~

~~separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions, if such person was awarded a service medal or campaign badge~~ A person who served in the active military, naval, air or space service and who was discharged or released therefrom under an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions;

~~(C)(B) any person who separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions and has a disability certified by the United States department of veterans affairs as being service connected, has been issued the purple heart by the United States government or has been released from active service with a service-connected disability who:~~

~~(1) Served in the active military, naval, air or space service and who was discharged therefrom under an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions;~~

~~(2) received a disability that was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, air or space service; and~~

~~(3) has a disability certified by the Kansas commission on veterans affairs office as being service-connected, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. § 1101 et seq. or 10 U.S.C. § 1201 et seq.;~~

~~(D)(C) the spouse of a service-connected disabled veteran who has a 100% service-connected disability as determined by the United States department of veteran affairs with a permanent and total combined service-connected evaluation percentage of 100%;~~

~~(E)(D) the unremarried surviving spouse of a veteran who died while, and as a result of, serving in armed forces in the line of duty in the active military, naval, air or space service; and~~

~~(F)(E) the spouse of a prisoner of war, as defined by K.S.A. 75-4364, and amendments thereto.~~

~~Notwithstanding the foregoing, the term "Veteran" shall preference in government employment shall not apply to any person who retired from the active military service with the pay grade of 04 or above unless the person retired due to wounds received in combat or is a~~

disabled veteran with a service-connected disability evaluation rating equal to or greater than 10%, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. § 1101 et seq. or 10 U.S.C. § 1201 et seq.

(2) "Competent" means a good faith determination that the person is likely to successfully meet the performance standards of the position based on what a reasonable person knowledgeable in the operation of the position would conclude from all information available at the time the ~~decision~~ determination is made. The basis for such determination shall include experience, training, education, licensure, certification ~~and/or~~ or other factors determined by the decision-making authority as appropriate to determine the applicant's overall qualification and ability to successfully meet the performance standards of the position. The decision-making authority shall document such factors prior to the initiation of the selection process.

(3) "Disabled veteran" means a person who ~~has~~:

~~(A) Served on in the active duty in the armed forces, has been separated therefrom under honorable conditions, and has established the present existence of a service-connected disability or is receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or pension because of a public statute administered by the department of veterans affairs or a military department military, naval, air or space service and was discharged or released therefrom under an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions;~~

~~(B) received a disability that was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval air or space service; and~~

~~(C) has a service-connected evaluation percentage, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. § 1101 et seq. or 10 U.S.C. § 1201 et seq.~~

(b) In grateful recognition of the services, sacrifices and sufferings of veterans who served in the army, navy, air force, coast guard or marine corps of the United States in world war I and world war II, and of persons who have served with the armed forces of the United States

during the military, naval and air operations in Korea, ~~Viet Nam~~ Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan or other places under the flags of the United States and the United Nations or under the flag of the United States alone, and have been honorably discharged therefrom, the provisions of this section are enacted.

(c) Veterans shall be preferred for initial employment and first promotion in the state government of Kansas, and in the counties and cities of this state, if competent to perform such services. Any veteran thus preferred shall not be disqualified from holding any position in such service on account of the veteran's age or by reason of any physical or mental disability as long as such age or disability does not render the veteran incompetent to perform the duties of the position applied for. When any veteran shall apply for appointment to any such position, place, or employment, the officer, board or person whose duty it is or may be to appoint a person to fill such position, place or employment shall, if the applicant be a veteran of good reputation, and can competently perform the duties of the position applied for by the veteran, consider the veteran for appointment to such position, place, or employment. Within 30 days of filling a position, eligible veterans who have applied and are not hired shall be notified by certified mail or personal service that they are not being hired. Such notice also shall advise the veteran of any administrative appeal available.

(d) The provisions of this act shall not be applicable to any persons classed as conscientious objectors. The provisions of this act shall not be controlling over the provisions of any statute, county resolution or city ordinance relating to retirement; or termination on the basis of age, of employees of the state or any county or city. Whenever under any statute, county resolution or city ordinance, retirement; or termination on the basis of age; of any employee is required at a certain age; or is optional with the employer at a certain age, ~~such provisions of~~ such statute, resolution or ordinance shall be controlling and shall not be limited by this section.

(e) (1) All notices of job openings, if any, and all applications for employment, if any, by the state and any city or county in this state shall state that the job is subject to a veteran's preference, how the preference works and how veterans may take advantage of the preference and post a written statement of:

- ~~(1)~~(A) The qualifications for such position;
- ~~(2)~~(B) any preferred qualifications of such position;
- ~~(3)~~(C) performance standards for the position; and
- ~~(4)~~(D) the process that will be used for selection.

(2) A veteran, ~~or a veteran's spouse or surviving spouse~~ who qualifies for the veteran's preference, desiring to use a veteran's preference shall provide the hiring authority with a copy of the veteran's ~~DD214 form or the DD214 form of the veteran~~ DD form 214, DD form 1300, NGB form 22 or other official discharge document recognized by the department of veterans affairs under which the spouse qualifies for the preference.

(f) Every employment center of the state and any city or county human resources department, if any, shall openly display documents that indicate that veterans are eligible for a preference in their initial employment and any first promotion within the employment of the governmental entity.

(g) Any veteran who alleges that a state agency, city or county has not provided the veterans preference as required by this act, after exhausting any available administrative remedy, may bring an action in the district court.";

On page 13, in line 23, by striking "which" and inserting "that"; in line 33, by striking "has" and inserting ":

(A)";

Also on page 13, also in line 33, by striking "armed"; by striking all in lines 34 through 37;

in line 38, by striking all before the period and inserting "active military, naval, air or space service and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable;

(B) received a disability that was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, air or space service;

(C) has a service-connected evaluation percentage equal to or greater than 30% pursuant to 38 U.S.C. § 1101 et seq. or 10 U.S.C. § 1201 et seq.";

On page 19, in line 39, by striking all after "who"; in line 40, by striking all before "and" and inserting "served in the active military, naval or air service"; in line 41, by striking all before the second "in" and inserting "performed active service";

On page 30, in line 30, by striking "enlistment" and inserting "entry into active service"; in line 31, by striking "any" and inserting "a"; also in line 31, by striking all after "person"; also in line 32, by striking all before the period and inserting "who served in the active military, naval, air or space service and who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable";

On page 39, in line 1, by striking all after "person"; by striking all in lines 2 through 7; in line 8, by striking all before the semicolon and inserting "who:

(A) Served in the active military, naval, air or space service and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable;

(B) received a disability that was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, air or space service; and

(C) has a service-connected evaluation percentage equal to or greater than 10% pursuant to 38 U.S.C. § 1101 et seq. 10 U.S.C. § 1201 et seq.";

Also on page 39, in line 15, after "51" by inserting "of such business"; in line 18, after "operations" by inserting "of such business";

On page 60, following line 21, by inserting:

"Sec. 74. K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 79-4502 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-4502.

As used in this act, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(a) "Income" means the sum of adjusted gross income under the Kansas income tax act effective for tax year 2013 and thereafter without regard to any modifications pursuant to K.S.A. 79-32,117(b)(xx) through (xxiii) and (c)(xx), and amendments thereto, maintenance, support money, cash public assistance and relief, not including any refund granted under this act, the gross amount of any pension or annuity, including all monetary retirement benefits from whatever source derived, including but not limited to, all payments received under the railroad retirement act, except disability payments, payments received under the federal social security act, except that for determination of what constitutes income such amount shall not exceed 50% of any such social security payments and shall not include any social security payments to a claimant who prior to attaining full retirement age had been receiving disability payments under the federal social security act in an amount not to exceed the amount of such disability payments or 50% of any such social security payments, whichever is greater, all dividends and interest from whatever source derived not included in adjusted gross income, workers compensation and the gross amount of "loss of time" insurance. Income does not include gifts from nongovernmental sources or surplus food or other relief in kind supplied by a governmental agency, nor shall net operating losses and net capital losses be considered in the determination of income. Income does not include veterans disability ~~pensions~~ compensation. Income does not include disability payments received under the federal social security act.

(b) "Household" means a claimant, a claimant and spouse who occupy the homestead or a claimant and one or more individuals not related as husband and wife who together occupy a homestead.

(c) "Household income" means all income received by all persons of a household in a

calendar year while members of such household.

(d) "Homestead" means the dwelling, or any part thereof, owned and occupied as a residence by the household and so much of the land surrounding it, as defined as a home site for ad valorem tax purposes, and may consist of a part of a multi-dwelling or multi-purpose building and a part of the land upon which it is built or a manufactured home or mobile home and the land upon which it is situated. "Owned" includes a vendee in possession under a land contract, a life tenant, a beneficiary under a trust and one or more joint tenants or tenants in common.

(e) "Claimant" means a person who has filed a claim under the provisions of this act and was, during the entire calendar year preceding the year in which such claim was filed for refund under this act, except as provided in K.S.A. 79-4503, and amendments thereto, both domiciled in this state and was:

(1) For purposes of a claim under K.S.A. 79-4508, and amendments thereto:

(A) A person having a disability;

(B) a person who is 55 years of age or older;

(C) a disabled veteran;

(D) the surviving spouse of ~~active-duty military personnel~~ a deceased member of the armed forces who died in the line of duty during a period of active service; or

(E) a person other than a person included under subparagraph (A), (B), (C) or (D) having one or more dependent children under 18 years of age residing at the person's homestead during the calendar year immediately preceding the year in which a claim is filed under this act;
or

(2) for purposes of a claim under K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 79-4508a, and amendments thereto:

(A) A person who is 65 years of age or older; or

(B) a disabled veteran.

The surviving spouse of a disabled veteran who was receiving benefits pursuant to subsection (e)(1)(C) at the time of the veterans' death, shall be eligible to continue to receive benefits until such time the surviving spouse remarries.

When a homestead is occupied by two or more individuals and more than one of the individuals is able to qualify as a claimant, the individuals may determine between them as to whom the claimant will be. If they are unable to agree, the matter shall be referred to the secretary of revenue whose decision shall be final.

(f) "Property taxes accrued" means property taxes, exclusive of special assessments, delinquent interest and charges for service, levied on a claimant's homestead in 1979 or any calendar year thereafter by the state of Kansas and the political and taxing subdivisions of the state. When a homestead is owned by two or more persons or entities as joint tenants or tenants in common and one or more of the persons or entities is not a member of claimant's household, "property taxes accrued" is that part of property taxes levied on the homestead that reflects the ownership percentage of the claimant's household. For purposes of this act, property taxes are "levied" when the tax roll is delivered to the local treasurer with the treasurer's warrant for collection. When a claimant and household own their homestead part of a calendar year, "property taxes accrued" means only taxes levied on the homestead when both owned and occupied as a homestead by the claimant's household at the time of the levy, multiplied by the percentage of 12 months that the property was owned and occupied by the household as its homestead in the year. When a household owns and occupies two or more different homesteads in the same calendar year, property taxes accrued shall be the sum of the taxes allocable to those several properties while occupied by the household as its homestead during the year. Whenever a homestead is an integral part of a larger unit such as a multi-purpose or multi-dwelling building,

property taxes accrued shall be that percentage of the total property taxes accrued as the value of the homestead is of the total value. For the purpose of this act, the word "unit" refers to that parcel of property covered by a single tax statement of which the homestead is a part.

(g) "Disability" means:

(1) Inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, and an individual shall be determined to be under a disability only if the physical or mental impairment or impairments are of such severity that the individual is not only unable to do the individual's previous work but cannot, considering age, education and work experience, engage in any other kind of substantial gainful work which exists in the national economy, regardless of whether such work exists in the immediate area in which the individual lives or whether a specific job vacancy exists for the individual, or whether the individual would be hired if application was made for work. For purposes of the preceding sentence (with respect to any individual), "work which exists in the national economy" means work which exists in significant numbers either in the region where the individual lives or in several regions of the country; for purposes of this subsection, a "physical or mental impairment" is an impairment that results from anatomical, physiological or psychological abnormalities which are demonstrable by medically acceptable clinical and laboratory diagnostic techniques; or

(2) blindness and inability by reason of blindness to engage in substantial gainful activity requiring skills or abilities comparable to those of any gainful activity in which the individual has previously engaged with some regularity and over a substantial period of time.

(h) "Blindness" means central visual acuity of $\frac{20}{200}$ or less in the better eye with the use of a correcting lens. An eye which is accompanied by a limitation in the fields of vision such that

the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees shall be considered for the purpose of this paragraph as having a central visual acuity of ²⁰/₂₀₀ or less.

(i) ~~"Disabled veteran" means a person who is a resident of Kansas and has been honorably discharged from active service in any branch of the armed forces of the United States or Kansas national guard and who has been certified by the United States department of veterans affairs or its successor to have a 50% or greater permanent disability sustained through military action or accident or resulting from disease contracted while in such active service who:~~

(1) Served in the active military, naval, air or space service and who was discharged or released therefrom under an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions;

(2) received a disability that was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, air or space service; and

(3) has a service-connected evaluation percentage equal to or greater than 50%, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. § 1101 et seq. or 10 U.S.C. § 1201 et seq.";

Also on page 60, in line 22, by striking "60."; also in line 22, after "K.S.A." by inserting "8-160, 8-243, 8-1324,"; also in line 22, after "65-2418," by inserting "44-706, 48-3401, 65-1116,"; also in line 22, after "65-2418," by inserting "73-201,"; in line 29, after "32-934," by inserting "48-3407, 48-3408, 48-3601, 50-676, 65-6129,"; in line 30, by striking "and" and inserting a comma; also in line 30, after "77-440" by inserting "and 79-4502";

And by renumbering sections accordingly;

On page 1, in the title, in line 6, after the semicolon by inserting "prescribing documentation requirements to determine eligibility for benefits derived from a service-connected disability; requiring that federal disability determinations be probative; prohibiting state agencies and municipalities from reconsidering a veteran's disability determination; modifying the definition

of veteran and disabled veteran; clarifying disability evaluations for benefits granted to disabled veterans; clarifying the definition of armed forces; updating the definition of armed forces to include the space force;"; also in line 6, after "K.S.A." by inserting "8-160, 8-243, 8-1324,"; also in line 6, after the second comma by inserting "44-706, 48-3401, 65-1116,"; also in line 6, after "65-2418," by inserting "73-201,"; in line 14, after the first comma by inserting "48-3407, 48-3408, 48-3601, 50-676, 65-6129,"; also in line 14, by striking the first "and" and inserting a comma; also in line 14, after "77-440" by inserting "and 79-4502";

And your committee on conference recommends the adoption of this report.

 Conferees on part of Senate

 Conferees on part of House