

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on February 14, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Laura Younker, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Eunice Peters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas Department of Education  
Dorothy Gerhardt, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. Robert J. Edleston, President, Kansas Association of Technical Colleges  
Dr. Blake Flanders, Vice President for Workforce Development, Kansas Board of Regents

Others attending:

See attached list.

**Welcome to New Committee Member**

Senator Allen Schmidt, District 36, Hays, Kansas, was welcomed as a new member of the committee, as well as of the Senate.

**Hearing on SB 143 - Creating the postsecondary tiered technical education state aid act**

Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, appeared before the committee with a summary of the provisions in the proposed legislation.

**SB 143** would create the Postsecondary Tiered Technical Education State Aid Act, replacing the current funding structure. In each fiscal year, beginning with FY 2012, each community college, technical college and the Washburn Institute of Technology would be eligible for postsecondary tiered technical education state aid from the State General Fund for credit hours approved by the State Board of Regents and delivered by the institution to students who are residents of Kansas, in an amount to be determined by the Board using a credit hour cost calculation model. The model would:

1. Be tiered to recognize and support cost differentials in providing high-demand, high-tech training;
2. Consider target industries critical to the Kansas economy;
3. Be responsive to growth;
4. Consider local taxing authority for credit hours generated by in-district students; and
5. Include other factors and consideration as considered necessary or advisable by the Board of Regents.

The Board would establish the rates to be used as the state's share in a given year, as well as in the actual distribution. No amount of tiered technical education aid would be based upon non-tiered course credit hours. Procedures are provided to withhold funding if the requirements of the Act are not complied with.

**SB 143** would establish a Postsecondary Technical Education Fund in each community college and at Washburn University for the Washburn Institute of Technology. All money received by these institutions for establishing, conducting, maintaining and administering any technology program would be deposited in these funds. In addition, money received by technical colleges for delivering tiered or non-tiered courses would be placed in the institutions' general operating fund. The bill provides management requirements for these funds.

The bill provides that each community college and technical college is eligible for a grant from the State General Fund, in an amount determined by the Board of Regents for non-tiered course credit hours that have been approved by the Board and delivered by the community college. The method of distribution

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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would be established by the Board after dialogue with the community college presidents.

Robert J. Edleston, Ed.D., President, Kansas Association of Technical Colleges, appeared in support of **SB 143** (Attachment 1). He stated the Kansas' two-year colleges were the only entity funded by the Kansas Legislature that actually makes money for State government through your investment in our programs. In 2006 the Technical Education Authority was formed. Since then, thousands of hours of research and collaboration have produced proof that technical education is underfunded in Kansas' twenty-six technical and community colleges. He stated that twenty-four of the twenty-six institutions were in support of this.

Blake Flanders, Ph.D, Vice President of Workforce Development, Kansas Board of Regents, appeared before the committee in support of the proposed legislation (Attachment 2). If enacted, **SB 143** will provide a systematic uniform approach and structure for funding technical education and a framework for a tiered technical education funding approach with rates established by program delivery costs. This systematic change will provide a forward-looking approach resulting in an equitable, coherent funding structure.

The new approach to technical education funding also provides long-term system incentives for the production of a high wage Kansas workforce. Additionally, **SB 143** repeals the community college operating grant and establishes a fund for non-tiered course credit hours supporting general education delivered by community colleges. This legislation follows the legislative directive relative to the funding approach for postsecondary technical education, and is a culmination of three years of effort from the institutional leaders, the Authority, and Board of Regents.

Committee discussion followed with questions regarding institutional support as well as the effects on financial support to the various institutions under the proposed framework. Dr. Flanders stated a "hold harmless" clause was included whereby no community college will receive less money than last year. Senator King requested a spreadsheet showing how this new approach would affect funding without the grandfather clause.

The hearing was closed.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.