

SESSION OF 2019

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2144

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Education

Brief*

HB 2144, as amended, would amend law related to community college student fees and enact the Community College Taxpayer Transparency Act.

The bill would include findings and conclusions generally noting the structure and financing of community colleges; the duty of transparency owed by community colleges to property taxpayers and students of community colleges; and reaffirming the students and taxpayers of community colleges as the priority in financial decisions, reporting processes, and transparency measures of community colleges.

The bill would be effective on and after July 1, 2020, and its publication in the statute book.

Student Fees

The bill would require any student fees to be charged for a specific purpose and that purpose be specified on the community college's website. The bill would require any billing statements or other information provided to students regarding student fees to guide students to the community college's website address. The bill would require revenues from student fees be spent only for the specified purpose of the fee.

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

Community College Taxpayer Transparency Act

The bill would require community colleges to identify the courses that are fully transferable to four-year colleges governed by the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) and prominently specify those courses on the community college's website and on the KBOR's website.

The bill also would require community colleges to publish certain information to the community college's website under an easily identifiable link titled "Taxpayer and student transparency data." Information required would include:

- Tuition rates for students residing in the community college district, in-state students residing outside the community college district, out-of-state students, and international students;
- Fees charged to students residing in the community college district, in-state students residing outside the community college district, out-of-state students, and international students;
- Total cost per credit hour for each semester, excluding housing and textbooks, for students residing in the community college district, in-state students residing outside the community college district, out-of-state students, and international students;
- The percentage of students attending each campus of the community college of students residing in the community college district, in-state students residing outside the community college district, out-of-state students, and international students;

- The enrollment percentage of students residing inside and outside of the community college district;
- The enrollment percentage of students residing in the service area of the community college;
- The aggregate amount of property tax revenues and mills levied by the community college for each of the preceding five fiscal years and the annual percent change; and
- The aggregate amount disbursed for the two immediately preceding fiscal years for institutional scholarships, foundation scholarships, and federal Pell Grants, in terms of athletic and non-athletic scholarships, for students residing in the community college district and students residing outside the state. The bill would specify this aggregate information shall not be reported if such information could identify a student with reasonable certainty.

Background

The bill was introduced by Representative Williams. In the House Committee on Education hearing, Representative Williams and a representative of the Kansas Association of Realtors testified in support of the bill. Written-only testimony in support of the bill was offered by the Butler County Board of Commissioners, the Kansas Policy Institute (KPI), and three private citizens.

A representative of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees (KACCT) testified in opposition to the bill. No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill on February 21, 2019, to remove provisions that would have required publication of certain items in local newspapers and provided

for certain protest petition processes. The House Committee also amended the bill to remove provisions that would have amended statutes related to reduction of community college tax levies upon increased state aid to community colleges and community college student residency.

On February 25, 2019, the House Committee amended the bill to require the list of transferable courses to be published on the KBOR's website; eliminate a requirement that the name of the county with the largest number of students who are enrolled in the community college, but reside outside of the community college district, be published; and to limit the scholarship information required to be published to information on scholarships provided by the institution.

In the Senate Committee on Education hearing, Representative Williams and a representative of the KACCT provided proponent testimony. The KACCT representative noted appreciation for the amendments made in the House Committee and requested additional amendments. A representative of the KPI provided written-only proponent testimony. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill on March 21, 2019, to change "budgeted" to "disbursed," require the reporting of foundation scholarships and federal Pell Grants, require the purpose of any charged student fees to be specified on the community college's website instead of the billing statement, require any billing statements or other information provided to students regarding student fees to guide students to the community college's website address, and change the effective date to July 1, 2020. These amendments were requested by the KACCT in their testimony.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the KBOR indicates enactment of the bill would increase administrative costs of community colleges. A fiscal note on the amended bill was not immediately available.