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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Thomas
Members of the House Committee on Education

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: February 12, 2024

Subject: HB 2646 – Expanding the scope of the Kansas Hero’s Scholarship Act.

House Bill No. 2646 (HB 2646) would amend K.S.A. 75-4364 to expand the recipients eligibility to receive financial assistance under the Kansas Hero’s Scholarship Act (Act). Currently, the Act directs public colleges and universities to waive charges for tuition and fees for up to 10 semesters for the following individuals:

- Dependents and spouses of any public safety officer who was injured, disabled, or who died while performing their duties as a public safety officer. “Public safety officer” includes any employee of a law enforcement agency, fire department, emergency medical service provider, or correctional institution.
- Dependents and spouses of any military servicemember who was injured, disabled, or who died after September 11, 2001, while serving in military service.
- Dependents and spouses of any military servicemember who entitled to compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs as a result of injuries sustained after September 11, 2001.
- Any prisoner of war.

HB 2646 amends this statute to strike the limitations to service by a member of the military after September 11, 2001. The bill also clarifies eligibility based on the military servicemember’s injury or disability.

Finally, HB 2646 strikes the educational institution’s reimbursement limit of \$500,000 per year. This would allow an educational institution to claim reimbursements for financial assistance provided under the Act of more than \$500,000 in one year. However, the bill also adds

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a provision that directs the Kansas Board of Regents to establish an aggregate limit for financial assistance under the Act each year based on the amount appropriated for such assistance.

If enacted, HB 2646 would become effective on publication in the Kansas Register.