

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MR. SPEAKER and MR. PRESIDENT: Your committee on conference on Senate amendments to **HB 2292** 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 8, in line 3, before the period by inserting "that seeks to engage in a registered education apprenticeship program"; in line 11, by striking all after "school"; in line 12, by striking all before "and"; in line 39, after the second comma, by inserting "of an applicant school"; in line 42, by striking "commissioner of education and the"; also in line 42, by striking the second "of"; in line 43, by striking all before the period; following line 43, by inserting:

"(f) "Secretary" means the secretary of commerce or the secretary's designee, including the director of the office of registered apprenticeship or any successor, designated by the secretary to administer the provisions of this act.";

On page 9, in line 3, by striking all after "secretary"; in line 4, by striking all before "shall"; also in line 4, by striking the second comma and inserting "and"; in line 6, by striking the second "and" and inserting ". The secretary shall"; in line 9, by striking "applicant schools" and inserting "education apprentices for tuition, fees, books and materials to obtain their postsecondary degrees"; in line 12, after "participate", by inserting "as education apprentices"; in line 15, by striking all after "the"; in line 16, by striking the first "education" and inserting "secretary"; in line 17, after "program" by inserting "of an applicant school"; also in line 17, by striking "of commerce, or the secretary's designee,"; in line 19, by striking "in"; in line 20, by striking all before "the" and inserting "and"; also in line 20, by striking "of commerce"; also in line 20, after

"shall" by inserting "coordinate to"; in line 24, by striking all after "(1)"; in line 25, by striking all before the semicolon and inserting "Application procedures, forms and terms and conditions and requirements for an award of a Kansas educator registered apprenticeship program grant to an education apprentice by the secretary"; in line 26, by striking "an award of a" and inserting "acceptance by the secretary of an applicant school into the"; in line 27, by striking "grant"; in line 32, after the semicolon, by inserting "and"; in line 36, by striking "(C)" and inserting "(3)"; also in line 36, after "of" by inserting "education"; in line 37, by striking "and" and inserting a comma; also in line 37, after "fees" by inserting "and the cost of books and materials"; in line 38, by striking "and"; by striking all in lines 39 and 40; in line 41, by striking "grant";

On page 10, in line 5, by striking "and" and inserting a comma; in line 6, by striking ", in coordination with" and inserting "and"; also in line 6, by striking all after "secretary"; in line 7, by striking all before "shall"; in line 28, by striking all after the first "the"; in line 29, by striking all before the period and inserting "secretary"; in line 35, by striking all after "the"; in line 36, by striking all before "designee" and inserting "secretary, or the secretary's"; in line 37, by striking "commissioner" and inserting "secretary";

And by redesignating subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs and clauses accordingly;

Also on page 10, following line 42, by inserting:

"Sec. 7. As used in this section and section 8, and amendments thereto:

(a) "Eligible institution of higher education" means:

(1) (A) A state educational institution as defined in K.S.A. 76-711, and amendments thereto; or

(B) any private, independent college with its primary location in Kansas that is a member of the Kansas independent college association as of July 1, 2023; and

(2) that has an engineering program accredited by the accreditation board for engineering and technology.

(b) "Engineering program" or "accredited engineering program" means an engineering program accredited by the accreditation board for engineering and technology and includes, but is not limited to, a program in computer engineering or computer science.

(c) "Qualified eligible institution of higher education" means an eligible institution of higher education that has certified to the secretary that, in the immediately preceding academic year, at least the following number of students have graduated with baccalaureate degrees from an engineering program or programs with respect to each institution:

- (1) Kansas state university, 586 graduates;
- (2) university of Kansas, 419 graduates;
- (3) Wichita state university, 360 graduates;
- (4) any other state educational institution as defined in K.S.A. 76-711, and amendments thereto, with an accredited engineering program, one or more graduates; and
- (5) private, independent colleges, one or more graduates.

(d) "Secretary" means the secretary of commerce.

Sec. 8. (a) There is hereby created in the state treasury the engineering graduate incentive fund. The secretary of commerce shall administer the fund. All expenditures from the fund shall be for the purpose of promoting the development of accredited postsecondary engineering programs in Kansas by providing grants that shall be matched on a \$1-for-\$1 basis with funds from nonstate sources to qualified eligible institutions of higher education for:

- (1) Awarding scholarships to undergraduate students enrolled at such institutions in an engineering program;

(2) recruiting undergraduate students for engineering programs offered by such institutions;

(3) expanding the number of potential engineering students through engineering-related activities in secondary schools in Kansas;

(4) funding internships for undergraduate students enrolled at such institutions in an engineering program;

(5) making necessary facility improvements or equipment purchases to expand engineering program course offerings; or

(6) hiring additional faculty or enhancing faculty salaries in such an institution's engineering program.

(b) Applications for matching grants shall be made by eligible institutions of higher education to the secretary in the form and manner required by the secretary. If the secretary determines the institution is a qualified eligible institution of higher education, finds the institution has sufficient nonstate funding to match the grant requested on a \$1-for-\$1 basis and approves the application, the qualified eligible institution of higher education shall receive a matching grant. If sufficient moneys are available in the engineering graduate incentive fund to fully fund all approved applications, the amount of the matching grant shall be at least \$20,000 for each graduate of an engineering program of the institution during the immediately preceding academic year, as determined by the secretary, in excess of the threshold requirement for qualification as a qualified eligible institution of higher education pursuant to section 1, and amendments thereto. If sufficient moneys are not available in the engineering graduate incentive fund to fully fund all approved applications in an amount of at least \$20,000 for each such graduate, the secretary shall award grants in a prorated amount so that all approved applicant

qualified eligible educational institutions receive the same amount of grant money for a graduate in excess of such respective threshold. The secretary shall consult with and coordinate with eligible institutions of higher education, qualified eligible institutions of higher education, the state board of regents, or private industry in planning and developing uses for matching grant funding to achieve the purpose of this act.

(c) Qualified eligible institutions of higher education that receive a matching grant shall provide such information as requested by the secretary, excluding any information confidential under state or federal law, regarding the use of grant funds. On or before January 10, 2024, and on or before the first day of each regular session of the legislature thereafter, the secretary shall provide a written report to the house of representatives standing committee on commerce, labor and economic development, or its successor committee, and the senate standing committee on commerce, or its successor committee, on the amount and uses of grant funding by each qualified eligible educational institution of higher education that has received a matching grant and progress made toward the goal of this act.

(d) All expenditures from the engineering graduate fund shall be for the purposes described in subsection (a) and shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the secretary of commerce or the secretary's designee.

(e) No moneys appropriated to the engineering graduate incentive fund shall be expended for the acquisition or construction of any facilities.

(f) (1) On July 1, 2023, or as soon thereafter as moneys are available, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer \$1,500,000 from the state general fund to the engineering graduate fund.

(2) On July 1, 2024, and on each July 1 thereafter, the secretary shall certify to the director of accounts and reports the amount of moneys expended for grants from the engineering graduate fund in the prior fiscal year. Upon receipt of such certification, or as soon thereafter as moneys are available, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer from the state general fund to the engineering graduate fund an amount equal to twice the amount certified by the secretary of commerce, except that if such transfer would result in an unencumbered balance in the engineering graduate fund of greater than \$5,000,000, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer the amount of moneys that shall result in an unencumbered balance of \$5,000,000 in the engineering graduate fund on such date.

Sec. 9. The provisions of sections 7 through 9, and amendments thereto, shall expire on July 1, 2033. On July 1, 2033, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer all unencumbered moneys in the engineering graduate fund to the state general fund. After such transfer, the engineering graduate fund shall be abolished. Upon abolishment of such fund, all liabilities of the engineering graduate fund shall be transferred to and imposed on the state general fund.";

And by renumbering sections accordingly;

On page 1, in the title, in line 1, after the semicolon by inserting "relating to workforce development programs to be administered by the secretary of commerce;"; in line 2, by striking all after "act"; in line 3, by striking all before "apprenticeships" and inserting "to promote and expand"; also in line 3, by striking the second "for" and inserting "with"; in line 5, by striking all before the semicolon and inserting "public schools by providing grants and tax credits for businesses, nonprofit organizations and healthcare organizations that offer apprenticeships and providing scholarship grants to aspiring teachers to obtain their professional degrees; promoting

and expanding public and private professional engineering programs by providing matching grants for engineering student scholarships and other program development and expansion costs"; in line 7, by striking "and" and inserting a comma; in line 8, after "fund" by inserting "and the engineering graduate incentive fund to be administered by the secretary of commerce";

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

Conferees on part of Senate

Conferees on part of House