

Postsecondary Technical Education Law Updates

SB 143 makes technical corrections and updates related to postsecondary technical education. The bill updates terminology, removes definitions for terms no longer used, eliminates vocational school references, adds individual institution-specific references, updates and removes obsolete sections of identified statutes, and repeals statutes no longer needed. As part of the statutory update, members of the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority include the designees of the Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Labor.

The bill creates the Postsecondary Tiered Technical Education State Aid Act (the Act), replacing the current funding structure. Beginning with FY 2012, and in each fiscal year thereafter, each community college and technical college and the Washburn Institute of Technology are eligible for postsecondary tiered technical education state aid from the State General Fund for credit hours approved by the State Board of Regents, using a credit hour cost calculation model that would include all of the following concepts:

- Arrange into categories or tiers, technical education programs, recognizing cost differentials. (For example, programs with similar costs comprise one of six tiers.)
- Consider target industries critical to the Kansas economy.
- Respond to program growth.
- Consider local taxing authority for credit hours generated by in-district students.
- Include other factors and considerations determined necessary by the State Board of Regents.

The State Board of Regents establishes the rates to be used as the State's share in a given year, as well as in the actual distribution. The bill prohibits receipt of both tiered technical education state aid and non-tiered course state aid for any one credit hour. (A non-tiered course is a general education course.)

The bill provides for fund accounting and management requirements related to state aid received under the Act. The bill authorizes the State Board of Regents to adopt policies necessary or desirable to implement and administer the Act.

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 State Board of

Regents for non-tiered course credit hours approved by the State Board of Regents after dialogue with community college and technical college presidents.

The bill makes a technical correction to KSA 76-769 related to State purchasing laws for Regents institutions. This correction ensures that universities are not exempt from procurement requirements related to construction.