

SESSION OF 2016

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2567

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

HB 2567 would reinstate eligibility for resident tuition rates at postsecondary institutions previously granted by the Legislature to certain military veterans and their families. This eligibility was inadvertently eliminated in 2015 HB 2154, legislation that brought Kansas into compliance with the federal Choice Act.

The explicit criteria in the bill would provide resident tuition to those veterans and individuals who were inadvertently removed from coverage by 2015 HB 2154. Specifically, the veteran would have to have been permanently stationed in Kansas during service in the armed forces or have established residency in Kansas prior to service in the armed forces. In addition, the bill would require the veteran or the veteran's spouse or dependent must live in Kansas at the time of enrollment.

The bill also would provide reimbursement to any person enrolled in a Kansas postsecondary educational institution in the 2015-2016 school year who would have been entitled to resident tuition and fee rates if the eligibility criteria in this bill had been in effect during the 2015-2016 school year. The reimbursement would be equal to the difference between any tuition and fee rates the person paid and the resident tuition and fee rates.

*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>

Background

The bill was requested for introduction by the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office (KCVAO). Proponent testimony was offered in the House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security by a military retiree, originally from Kansas, who was denied in-state tuition for his dependent when the family returned to Kansas following his retirement. Proponent testimony also was provided by the President of the Kansas Board of Regents and a representative of the KCVAO, who both testified that 2015 HB 2154, while necessary to comply with the federal Choice Act for veterans, inadvertently removed existing statutory provisions that authorized resident tuition rates in the situation described above. There was no opponent or neutral testimony.

The House Committee amended the bill to make the benefit available to a veteran, veteran's spouse, or dependent if the veteran was permanently stationed in Kansas at any time during military service.

The House Committee of the Whole made technical amendments to correct duplicate language.

No fiscal note was available at the time of the hearing in the House Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security.