

SESSION OF 2019

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 199

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Education

Brief*

SB 199 would establish the AO-K to Work Program (Program). The provisions of the Program would apply to all adult education programs in Kansas.

Definitions

The bill would establish definitions for the following terms:

- “AO-K” or “Accelerating Opportunity: Kansas” would mean a career pathways program model that assists students in obtaining a high schoolequivalency, becoming ready for transferable college-level courses, and earning an industry credential;
- “Career readiness assessment” would mean an assessment approved by the State Board of Regents (KBOR) to measure foundational skills required for success in the workplace and workplace skills that affect job performance;
- “Career readiness certificate” would mean a certificate that uses a career readiness assessment approved by KBOR to document an individual’s skills in applied math, graphic literacy, and workplace documents;

*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>

- “Industry recognized credential” would mean a credential recognized by multiple employers across an industry as determined by KBOR;
- “Kansas adult education program” would mean any educational institution or approved agency that receives adult education funding through KBOR; provides adult education or English language acquisition programs; serves Kansas adults aged 16 and over who are in need of basic skills for the workforce, community participation, and family life; and prepares adults for achieving industry recognized credentials and college certificates and degrees; and
- “Qualified student” would mean an individual who has attained the age of 21, has not been awarded a high school diploma, has been accepted into a Kansas adult education program, has demonstrated high school equivalency by meeting the criteria established by KBOR pursuant to the bill, and has declared an AO-K career pathway interest.

The bill would also specify the definitions of “community college” and “technical college” have the same meaning as under continuing law (KSA 71-701 for community colleges and KSA 71-1802 for technical colleges).

Awarding of a Credential to a Qualified Student

The bill would require KBOR to award a Kansas high school equivalency credential to any qualified student who is recommended and approved to participate in an AO-K career pathway approved by KBOR for college credit, successfully completes an approved AO-K career pathway and receives the industry-recognized credential appropriate to the completed pathway, takes a career readiness assessment and earns a career readiness certificate at a level approved

by KBOR, and satisfies any other requirement deemed necessary by KBOR.

Access to Resources

The bill would require any qualified students participating in the Program to be provided reasonable access to all available student resources of the adult education program, the participating technical or community college, and the appropriate community partners, including, but not limited to, appropriate academic support, barrier mitigation, and employment or career assistance.

Fee and Fund

The bill would require each application to KBOR for issuance or duplication of a Kansas high school equivalency credential to be accompanied by a fee, established by KBOR, in an amount of not more than \$25.

The bill would require KBOR, on or before June 1 of each year, to determine the amount of revenue required to properly administer the provisions of the bill during the next ensuing fiscal year and establish the Kansas High School Equivalency Credentials Processing Fee (Fee) for such year in the amount deemed necessary for such purposes. The Fee would be required to become effective on the succeeding July 1 of each year.

KBOR would be required to remit all moneys received from the Fee to the State Treasurer in accordance with KSA 75-4215 (remittance of state moneys; fee agency accounts; reports; post audit). Upon receipt of such remittance, the State Treasurer would be required to deposit the entire amount in the State Treasury to the credit of the Kansas High School Equivalency Credential Processing Fees Fund (Fund) and would establish the Fund in the State Treasury. The Fund would be used only for the payment of expenses connected

with the processing, issuance, or duplication of Kansas high school equivalency credentials, and for the keeping of records by KBOR. The bill would require all expenditures from the Fund to be made in accordance with appropriations acts upon warrants of the Director of Accounts and Reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by KBOR or by a person or persons designated by KBOR.

Rules and Regulations

The bill would authorize KBOR to adopt rules and regulations to implement and administer provisions of the bill.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Education at the request of Goodwill Industries. In the Senate Committee hearing, a representative of Goodwill Industries, the Kansas Adult Education Association, and the NexStep Alliance, and a representative of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce provided proponent testimony, generally stating the bill would be an effective way to utilize existing Kansas programs and infrastructure to meet growing employer demand for a qualified technical workforce. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of KBOR, Wichita Independent Business Association, and Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas.

No neutral or opponent testimony was provided.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, tuition for AO-K students is currently provided to institutions offering AO-K programs through a State General Fund appropriation in the KBOR budget. However, KBOR is unable to estimate the number of additional adult students who may participate in the Program as a result of enactment of the bill. KBOR indicates enactment of the bill would increase its administrative costs,

but any additional costs could be absorbed within existing resources and from new revenues generated from the credentialing fee. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2020 Governor's Budget Report*.