

SENATE BILL No. 150

By Senator Abrams

1-30

9 AN ACT concerning postsecondary education; establishing the KPERS
10 eligible educational program.

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12 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

13 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the KPERS
14 eligible educational program act.

15 Sec. 2. As used in the program KPERS eligible educational program
16 act:

17 (a) "Executive officer" means the chief executive officer of the state
18 board of regents appointed under K.S.A. 74-3203a, and amendments
19 thereto.

20 (b) "Qualified student" means a person who: (1) Is a resident of the
21 state of Kansas; (2) (A) is an employee and who has been a member of
22 KPERS for at least 10 consecutive years and who has not received an
23 unsatisfactory performance evaluation in those 10 years; (B) is a retirant
24 with at least 10 consecutive years of membership in KPERS and did not
25 receive an unsatisfactory performance evaluation in those 10 years; or (C)
26 is a dependent of a person described in (2)(A) or (2)(B); (3) has been
27 accepted for admission to or is enrolled in a course of instruction in a
28 postsecondary educational institution; (4) has qualified for the award of
29 a scholarship under the program on the basis of having demonstrated
30 scholastic ability or has previously so qualified and remains qualified for
31 renewal of the scholarship on the basis of remaining in good standing and
32 making satisfactory progress toward completion of the requirements of
33 the course of instruction in which enrolled.

34 (c) "State board" means the state board of regents.

35 (d) "Postsecondary educational institution" has the meaning ascribed
36 thereto by K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments thereto.

37 (e) "KPERS" means the Kansas public employees retirement system.

38 (f) "Program" means the KPERS eligible educational program.

39 (g) "Dependent" means a spouse or child of a member or retirant.

40 (h) (1) "Spouse" means a lawful husband or wife or the widow or
41 widower of a member or retirant and who is a citizen of the United States
42 lawfully present in the United States.

43 (2) "Spouse" does not mean a husband or wife if either spouse has

1 filed an action for annulment, separate maintenance or divorce or for
2 relief under the protection from abuse act.

3 (i) (1) "Child" means an unmarried child, grandchild or step child of
4 a member or retirant and who: (A) Is less than 24 years of age; (B) is a
5 citizen of the United States or lawfully is present in the United States;
6 and (C) does not file a joint tax return with another person.

7 (2) "Child" does not include: (A) A step child if the member or the
8 member's spouse has filed an action for annulment, separate maintenance
9 or divorce or for relief under the protection from abuse act; or (B) a
10 grandchild who is not a resident of the member's household.

11 (j) "Member," "employee," and "retirant" have the meanings as-
12 cribed thereto by K.S.A. 74-4902, and amendments thereto.

13 Sec. 3. (a) There is hereby established the KPERS eligible educa-
14 tional program. A scholarship may be awarded under the program to any
15 qualified student and may be renewed for such student who remains
16 qualified for the scholarship. Determination of the students qualified for
17 such scholarships shall be made by the executive officer in accordance
18 with a rubric designed by the state board. The executive director shall
19 give scholastic ability the highest priority when awarding scholarships un-
20 der the program. Scholastic ability shall be determined on the basis of
21 any one or more of the following: (1) High ACT or SAT score; (2) rank
22 in high school graduation class; (3) cumulative high school or college
23 grade point average; or (4) any other indicator of scholastic ability which
24 the state board of regents determines to be demonstrative of potential
25 for successful completion of the course of instruction in which the student
26 is enrolled. To the extent practicable and consistent with the require-
27 ments of this subsection and the qualification factors specified in subsec-
28 tion (b) of section 2, and amendments thereto, consideration shall be
29 given to qualified students with greatest financial need.

30 (b) Within the limitations of appropriations therefor, the number of
31 scholarships awarded and the amount awarded to each applicant shall be
32 determined by the executive officer. The amount awarded shall be spec-
33 ified in the agreement. The amount awarded may vary depending upon
34 the number of hours and the program in which the applicant is enrolled,
35 but shall not exceed \$2,500 each semester or its equivalent.

36 (c) Except as provided by this subsection, a scholarship may not be
37 awarded for more than four academic years of undergraduate study or
38 the equivalent thereof. If the course of instruction requires a fifth year
39 of undergraduate study, a scholarship may be awarded for the duration
40 of the course of instruction.

41 (d) If a student is not enrolled on a full-time basis, a student shall
42 complete the course of study within the time period specified in the
43 agreement and shall receive a proportionate amount of the scholarship

1 allowed under subsection (b) based upon the number of hours enrolled
2 in an academic period, and computed as a fraction of the total number
3 of credit hours required for full-time enrollment.

4 Sec. 4. (a) An applicant for designation as a qualified student and for
5 the award of a scholarship under the KPERS eligible educational program
6 shall provide to the executive officer, on forms supplied by the executive
7 officer, information required by the executive officer.

8 (b) As a condition to awarding a scholarship under this act, the ex-
9 cutive officer and the applicant shall enter into an agreement which shall
10 require the applicant to:

- 11 (1) Complete the required course of instruction; and
- 12 (2) maintain records and make reports to the executive officer as re-
13 quired by the agreement.

14 Sec. 5. The state board shall adopt rules and regulations for admin-
15 istration of the program and shall establish terms, conditions and obli-
16 gations which shall be incorporated into the provisions of any agreement
17 entered into between the executive officer and an applicant for the award
18 of a scholarship under the program. The terms, conditions and obligations
19 shall be consistent with the provisions of the KPERS eligible educational
20 program act and shall include, but not be limited to, the circumstances
21 under which eligibility for financial assistance under the program may be
22 terminated and the amount of financial assistance to be provided.

23 Sec. 6. There is hereby created in the state treasury the KPERS el-
24 ible educational program fund. All expenditures from the KPERS eli-
25 gible educational program fund shall be for scholarships awarded under
26 the program and shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts
27 upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to
28 vouchers approved by the executive officer or by a person designated by
29 the executive officer.

30 Sec. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
31 publication in the statute book.