

SESSION OF 2007

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2185**

As Agreed to April 3, 2007

Brief*

HB 2185 would amend KSA 2006 Supp. 76-729 by increasing the number of months Kansas residents who move out of the state and then return are allowed to be gone and still be considered state residents for tuition purposes at any of the state educational institutions under the control and supervision of the Kansas Board of Regents from 12 months to 60 months. The bill does not apply to certain persons without lawful immigration status, as defined by KSA 2006 Supp. 76-731a and amendments thereto.

The bill would increase the stipend for students participating in the Medical Student Loan agreement from a maximum of \$1,500 per month to a maximum of \$2,000 per month. The bill also would allow loans to be awarded retroactively for any academic year that a student has completed successfully, but for which a loan had not previously been awarded. Retroactive loans would be equal to the amount of tuition paid, plus a stipend in an amount not to exceed the maximum for such academic year.

The bill would require the University of Kansas School of Medicine report to the 2008 Legislature by January 14, 2008, on its evaluation of criteria for identifying underserved areas to be served by recipients of Medical Student Loans.

In addition, the bill would create the Nurse Educator

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Service Scholarship Program Act, which was created by proviso in the 2006 omnibus appropriations bill and will expire at the end of FY 2007. The Nurse Educator Service Scholarship Program would provide funding for registered nurses who are accepted to or enrolled in graduate level degree-granting programs leading to a master of science in nursing or a doctorate degree in nursing, and who plan to teach nursing.

Conditions for the act would include:

- Completion of the required course of instruction;
- Begin teaching full-time within six months of finishing the program;
- Teach nursing in the State of Kansas for one year for each year the scholarship was awarded; and
- Documentation provided to the Board of Regents that the obligations of the scholarship agreement are being met.

Scholarship recipients who do not fulfill these obligations would be required to re-pay the scholarship amount awarded with interest. The bill specifies conditions under which postponement of repayment or settlement of the debt would be allowed. Applicants for this scholarship would qualify on the basis of scholastic ability and would remain qualified by making satisfactory progress and remaining in good standing in their academic programs.

The act would require that for every \$2 appropriated by the Legislature for the program, universities must provide a \$1 match.

The bill also would consolidate the four existing teacher service scholarship programs into a single program by amending the Teacher Service Scholarship Program to include provisions from the programs eliminated by the bill. The State Board of Regents would administer the program. Under the

Teacher Service Scholarship Program, students who would qualify for a scholarship are those students who have been accepted or enrolled in courses leading to teacher licensure, leading to a teacher endorsement which is different from one currently held, or leading to a master's degree in education.

Students attending school on a part-time basis also would qualify under the program. The scholarship amount would not exceed \$2,500 per semester for academic year 2007-2008. In academic years thereafter, the maximum award would be increased by an amount equal to the urban Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) during the preceding fiscal year.

The bill would eliminate the following scholarship programs: Mathematics and Science Teacher Service Scholarship, Special Education Teacher Service Scholarship, and Teacher Education Scholarship.

The bill also would establish the Teacher Education Competitive Grant Program as a part of the Teacher Service Scholarship Program for state universities and Washburn University. The Program's intent is to increase the number of students in courses of study leading to licensure to teach in a hard-to-fill teaching discipline or who agree to teach in an underserved area.

Institutions wishing to establish or expand a teacher education program apply to the Kansas Board of Regents for a competitive grant to pay the costs of the program. Grants would be matched on the basis of two dollars from the Teacher Education Grant Program for every one dollar from the institution receiving the grant.

The bill would require the Kansas Board of Regents submit a report to the Legislature by January 14, 2009, describing program activity between July 1, 2007 and October 1, 2008. The bill also would require that at least 70 percent of appropriations to the State Board of Regents for the Teacher Service Scholarship Program be expended for the scholarships.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee added the provisions of 2007 SB 23, as amended by the House Committee on Education. SB 23 included the amendments to the Teacher Service Scholarship Program and the Teacher Education Competitive Grant Program.

In addition, the Conference Committee added the requirement that the University of Kansas School of Medicine report to the 2008 Legislature by January 14, 2008, on its evaluation of criteria for identifying underserved areas to be served by recipients of Medical Student Loans.

Background

At the Senate Ways and Means hearing on HB 2185, Representatives Mah and Brunk and a family adversely affected by the current law testified on behalf of the bill. A representative of the Kansas Board of Regents presented neutral testimony on the bill. There were no opponents to the bill.

The Senate Ways and Means Committee amended the bill to do the following:

- Remove the retroactivity for in-state tuition;
- Remove the three-year sunset provision;
- Add the provisions of SB 24, without the increase in the Medical Student Loan program stipend indexed on the Consumer Price Index (CPI); and
- Add the provisions of SB 25, which establishes the Nurse Educator Service Scholarship program.

At the House Education Committee hearing on HB 2185, Representatives Mah and Brunk and a family adversely affected by the current law testified on behalf of the bill. A representative of the Kansas Board of Regents presented neutral testimony on the bill. There were no opponents to the bill.

The House Education Committee amended HB 2185, making it effective for academic years 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10.

The House Committee of the Whole amended HB 2185 by making the provisions of the bill retroactive to the 2006-07 school year and by excluding certain persons from provisions of the bill.

The fiscal note for HB 2185 indicated data was not available to calculate the loss of revenue to universities should this bill pass.

At the hearing on SB 23, representatives of the Kansas National Education Association, State Board of Education, Kansas Board of Regents, and Shawnee Mission School District testified on behalf of the bill. There were no opponents to the bill.

To conform to the intent of the Board of Regents, the Senate Education Committee amended SB 23 changing the maximum scholarship amount per semester for academic year 2007-2008 to \$2,500.

The House Education Committee amended SB 23 requiring the State Board of Regents report program activities resulting from both programs to the Legislature within two years. Also, the requirement that at least 70 percent of moneys appropriated be expended on scholarships was added by the House Education Committee.

Both the House and Senate Education committees made technical amendments to SB 23.

The fiscal note related to the Teacher Service Scholarship Program indicated that \$690,659 of State General Funds would be needed in FY 2008.

The fiscal note related to the Teacher Education Competitive Grant Program indicated the *FY 2008 Governor's Budget Report* included \$1.0 million from the State General Fund for this Program.

state resident tuition requirements