

SESSION OF 2007

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 2556**

As Agreed to April 3, 2007

Brief*

Substitute for HB 2556 would establish the Kansas Technical College and Technical School Commission. The Commission would have ten voting members and one ex-officio member. The bill details requirements for appointment. The Commission would meet on call of the chairperson or on the request of six or more members. The Commission would study and conduct hearings on the governance, funding, and mission of Kansas technical colleges and technical schools.

The bill would require the Commission to submit reports of its activities and recommendations to the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC) with a preliminary report by November 15, 2007, and a final report by November 15, 2008.

The Commission would expire on December 31, 2008.

The bill also would establish the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (Authority), which would be composed of 12 members as follows:

- Four members appointed by the State Board of Regents:
 - Two members of the Board of Regents;
 - One representative of a community college that provides technical education; and

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- One representative of technical colleges in the state, or his designee.
- Three members appointed by the Governor:
 - One member representing Kansas business and industry; and
 - Two members representing the general public.
- One member appointed by the Senate President representing business and industry;
- One member appointed by the Speaker of the House representing business and industry;
- Three ex-officio members: the Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Labor.

No more than two members shall be from any one specific technical career cluster, and of the members appointed from business and industry and the general public, at least one shall come from each congressional district. In addition, no more than five members of the authority shall be from the same political party. The chairman of the Authority is selected by the Governor.

Under delegated authority from the Board of Regents, the Authority would:

- Coordinate statewide planning for existing and new postsecondary technical education programs and contract training;
- Review existing and proposed postsecondary technical education programs;
- Review requests of state funding for postsecondary technical education and make recommendations to the

State Board of Regents for funding amounts and distribution;

- Develop benchmarks and accountability indicators for the programs;
- Develop and advocate annually a policy agenda for postsecondary technical education; and
- Conduct studies of ways to maximize resources to best meet the needs of business and industry, making recommendations to the State Board of Regents.

Recommendations adopted by the Authority would be considered and acted on by the State Board of Regents. Disapproval of a recommendation would require a majority vote of all members of the State Board of Regents, within 45 days of the submission of the recommendation.

The Authority and the Board of Regents would select a Vice-President of Workforce Development to serve as the executive director of the Authority, with the participation of the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges and the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees. The Vice-President would not be a member of the Authority and would serve in the unclassified service, at the pleasure of the Board of Regents.

The bill would require the governing bodies of the following institutions to submit a plan to merge or affiliate with a postsecondary education institution, or become an accredited technical college with an independent governing board by July 1, 2008.

- Northeast Kansas Technical College;
- Kansas City Area Technical School;
- Kaw Area Technical School;
- Salina Area Technical School; and
- Southwest Kansas Technical School.

The bill would sunset on June 30, 2014.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee adjusted the composition of the 12-member Authority to reduce the Governor's appointees from 5 to 3, and reduce the appointees by the Legislative Leadership from 4 to 2. The appointment of the Authority chairman was changed from election by the Authority, to selection by the Governor.

The Conference Committee amended the provision regarding approval of the recommendations by the Authority to require implementation of the Authority recommendations unless the Board of Regents, by a majority vote of the Board, vetoes the recommendation within 45 days of its submission to the Board.

The selection of the Vice-President of Workforce Development was changed to require selection by the Authority and the Board of Regents, with the participation of the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges (or its successor organization) and the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees (or its successor organization).

The Conference Committee amended the provisions of 2007 HB 2014, creating the Technical College and Vocational School Commission, into the bill. The Conference Committee amended to bill to require one of the two Governor's appointees be a resident of northeast Kansas, and to change the member who is a community college trustees to a member who is a representative of a community college.

Background

At the hearing on this bill, Representative Mah, members of the Kansas Technical College and Vocational School Commission, President of the Butler County Community College, Director of the Kaw Area Technical School, President of the North Central Kansas Technical College, and representatives of BKB Construction of Topeka, the Associated

General Contractors of Kansas, and Westar Energy testified on behalf of the bill. There were no opponents of the bill.

The House Education Committee amended the bill by requiring the State Board of Regents select the two members of the Authority from the State Board of Regents. The Committee also amended the bill to state that the two members appointed from the Board of Regents could be either State Board of Regents members or their designees.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill by adding two members to the Authority and allowing the Governor to make only one appointment, while legislative leaders would appoint four members. The amendment added two appointees from the State Board of Regents requiring one member represent community colleges and another member represent technical colleges. The amendment added a sunset provision taking effect on June 30, 2010.

The Senate Ways and Means Committee adopted a substitute bill incorporating amendments from both the House Committee of the Whole and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. The State Board of Regents indicated in the fiscal note the difficulty estimating a fiscal impact with a lack of information, such as the level of staff support and the Authority's level of activity. However, the fiscal estimate based upon a five member staff including an Executive Director, initial start-up costs at \$789,484 for FY 2008 and \$539,484 for FY 2009.

At the hearing on this bill, a representative of the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges testified on the bill's behalf. There were no opponents. The House Committee amended the bill to provide that when making the initial appointments to the Commission, the appointing authorities shall appoint the same persons they had appointed to the Kansas Technical College and Vocational School Commission created by proviso during the 2006 Legislative Session. The Committee also added a provision to address the occurrence of vacancies on the Commission and to clarify that only voting members are counted when determining a quorum.

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill by adding three members, including a trustee of a community college offering technical education and one resident of either Douglas, Johnson, Leavenworth, or Wyandotte county. The fiscal note indicated that \$28,722 of State General Fund would be needed in FY 2008 to pay for approximately six Commission meetings.

kansas technical college and technical school commission