

SESSION OF 2007

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
SENATE BILL NO. 437**

As Agreed to April 2, 2008

Brief*

SB 437 would allow the selection committee at each ROTC institution (as defined by KSA 74-3255) to award ROTC scholarships to qualified students who are enrolled at community colleges. The State Board of Regents would have to approve a memorandum of understanding between the board of trustees of the community college and the chief executive officer of the ROTC institution prior to the awarding of any scholarships. This memorandum of understanding would include requirements for student eligibility, the application process, and other relevant information.

The bill also would establish the Military Service Scholarship Program. This Program would award scholarships to Kansas residents who had served in military service in Iraq, Afghanistan, or on foreign soil or in international waters in support of military operations in Iraq or Afghanistan for 90 days, or less than 90 days because of injuries received, following September 11, 2001. It also would include individuals who had received an honorable discharge or served in the military operations of Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, or Iraqi Freedom.

The scholarships would be awarded on a priority basis to applicants who have the greatest financial need and would be renewable for students who remain qualified. This financial need determination would take into consideration federal

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military educational assistance received by the student. The number and amount of scholarships awarded would be determined by the Executive Officer of the State Board of Regents but would not be allowed to exceed the cost of fees and tuition. The scholarship would be awarded annually for the equivalent of four academic years based on full-time enrollment. The scholarship would allow for part-time enrollment and would allow for fifth-year enrollment in some cases.

The bill also would designate the Salina Area Technical School as the Salina Area Technical College.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to amend the bill, as passed by the House, to delete all provisions requiring the Board of Regents, in collaboration with public postsecondary educational institutions, to implement policies to ensure faculty members consider least costly practices in assigning textbooks starting on January 1, 2009. The Conference Committee also agreed to amend the bill to include all provisions of SB 696 as passed by the Senate dealing with changing the designation of the Salina Area Technical School to the Salina Area Technical College.

Background

At the Senate Committee on Education hearing on SB 437, the bill was supported by Representative Goico, Captain Adam Johnson of the Kansas Army National Guard, and Captain Jason Nelson of the Pittsburg State University ROTC. Sheila Frahm of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees provided informational testimony. Diane Lindeman of the Kansas Board of Regents submitted written testimony.

The Military Service Scholarship Program portion of the bill was originally introduced as House Bill 2609 during the 2008

Session. Provisions similar to HB 2609 were contained in a proviso in a 2007 appropriations bill.

The Senate Committee of the Whole made a technical amendment to the bill.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to require the Board of Regents, in collaboration with public postsecondary educational institutions, to implement policies to ensure faculty members consider least costly practices in assigning textbooks starting on January 1, 2009.

The Conference Committee amended the bill to include all provisions of SB 696 as it passed the Senate. At the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs hearing on SB 696, Kip Peterson from the Kansas Board of Regents testified in favor of the bill. No opponents testified at the hearing. SB 696 was in the House Committee on Education at the time the Conference Committee took action on SB 437.

The amended version of SB 437 does not have a fiscal note. The fiscal note for the Military Service Scholarship Program which originated in HB 2609 indicates that funding of \$500,000 from the State General Fund is included in the Governor's Budget for fiscal year 2009. No fiscal note was available for SB 696 at the time the Conference Committee amended the bill into SB 437.

ROTC scholarships