

SESSION OF 2007

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 23

As Amended by House Committee on
Education

Brief*

SB 23, as amended, 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.

*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>

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.

Background

At the hearing on the bill, 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 the bill changing the maximum scholarship amount per semester for academic year 2007-2008 to \$2,500.

The House Education Committee amended the bill 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 the bill.

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.