

SESSION OF 2007

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2209

As Amended by House Committee on
Veterans, Military and Homeland Security

Brief*

HB 2209, as amended, would exempt certain individuals from paying tuition and fees at Kansas educational institutions for up to 10 semesters of undergraduate instruction who:

- Graduated from a high school in Kansas or who, as a resident of Kansas, received a general educational development (G.E.D.); and
- Served in the United States military in Iraq or Afghanistan, after September 11, 2001, for at least 90 days or served less than 90 days because of injuries received in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Any Kansas educational institution that waives tuition of a person qualified pursuant to this bill would be authorized to file a claim with the State Board of Regents for reimbursement less any amount received from federal military tuition assistance. The bill would establish the Tuition Waiver Fund in the state treasury to facilitate a revenue transfer upon the certification by the chief executive officer of the State Board of Regents to the Director of Accounts and Reports of the actual amount of tuition and fee waivers.

Background

The proponents of the bill included Representative Mario Goico, and Ken Stodgell, Legislative Chairman for Veterans of Foreign Wars.

There was no testimony in opposition to the bill.

Diane Duffy, Vice-President of Finance and Administration for the Kansas Board of Regents (Board), provided neutral testimony on the

*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>

bill. She testified that the Kansas education institutions that are affected by this bill are state universities, community colleges, technical schools or colleges, and Washburn University.

The Committee amended the bill to:

- Provide a limitation for up to 10 semesters of undergraduate instruction;
- Clarify that the eligible military service must have been in Iraq or Afghanistan;
- Clarify that a Kansas resident with a G.E.D. may qualify for the tuition waiver;
- Clarify that a person who served less than 90 days because of injuries received in Iraq or Afghanistan may qualify for the tuition waiver;
- Clarify that reimbursement to the Kansas educational institution that waived tuition to a qualified person would be less any amount received from federal military tuition assistance; and
- Establish the Tuition Waiver Fund in the state treasury to facilitate a revenue transfer.

The other amendments were technical in nature.

The fiscal note from the Division of Budget states that, according to the Board, an estimated 700 of the eligible 2,800 soldiers would apply for this tuition waiver. The average tuition and fees for a full-time student is approximately \$4,800 per year. Based on this information, the fiscal effect of the bill would be \$3,360,000 a year from the State General Fund. In addition, the Board would need 1.00 FTE position to administer the program at a cost of \$47,000 per year. Any fiscal effect resulting from this bill has not been included in *The FY 2008 Governor's Budget Report*.