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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Howe and members of the Higher Education Budget Committee

From: Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: February 13, 2025

Subject: **HB 2248**, establishing the Kansas nursing initiative grant program and authorizing the state board of regents to approve need-based or competitive grants for the expansion of nursing faculty, laboratory supplies and tools for student success at postsecondary educational institutions.

HB2248 establishes the Kansas nursing initiative grant program administered by the state board of regents. Subject to appropriations therefor, any postsecondary educational institution with an accredited nursing program may submit an application for a need-based or competitive grant of moneys for the expansion of nursing faculty, laboratory supplies and tools for student success. Grants shall not require any funding match in order to receive funds from this program.

The Kansas nursing initiative grant program shall allow postsecondary educational institutions to:

- (1) Apply for and receive up to \$100,000 for nonconsumable laboratory supplies and equipment;
- (2) expend the grant funds on adjunct clinical instructors, including partial funding of an adjunct clinical instructor who may be employed by a healthcare facility;
- (3) request funding for tools for student success, including, but not limited to, general tutoring, study skills, preparatory skills for taking exams and preparatory licensing classes; and
- (4) request funding for student support that may impact a student's ability to attend and complete the program, including, but not limited to, childcare services.

In order to be eligible for a grant under this section, the accredited nursing program of the institution shall be nationally accredited, be approved by the Kansas board of nursing and have national council licensure examination test scores at or above the most recent three-year national average.

The institution shall submit to the state board an application for a grant, with the state board determining the form and time for submission.

The state board shall establish standards and criteria for reviewing, evaluating and approving applications for grants. The state board shall award grants in accordance with the established standards and criteria, and within the limitations of appropriations, determine the amount and number of grants.

Each institution that is awarded a grant under this section shall make such periodic and special reports of statistical and financial information to the state board as it may request.

"Postsecondary educational institution" includes postsecondary educational institutions as defined in K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments thereto, and any independent, not-for-profit institution of postsecondary education with its main campus or principal place of operation in Kansas and is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency for higher education in the United States.

The bill becomes effective upon the publication in the statute book.