

HOUSE BILL No. 2595

By Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Requested by Representative Rahjes

1-29

1 AN ACT concerning the practice of law in rural Kansas; providing
2 financial assistance to law students who practice law in rural areas of
3 the state; establishing the attorney training program for rural Kansas
4 fund; transferring moneys to such fund.

5
6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the rural legal training
8 program for rural Kansas at the university of Kansas school of law and
9 Washburn university school of law. The program shall be developed and
10 implemented in order to provide encouragement, opportunities and
11 incentives for persons pursuing a law degree at the university of Kansas or
12 Washburn university to practice law in rural Kansas. The program shall be
13 administered by the university of Kansas school of law and Washburn
14 university school of law.

15 (b) In accordance with the provisions of this section, the universities
16 may enter into program agreements with law students who have met the
17 requirements of this section. Preference shall be given to those students
18 who are Kansas residents.

19 (c) Each student entering into a program agreement under this section
20 shall receive a stipend in an amount of not to exceed \$3,000 per school
21 year for not more than three years for tuition, books, supplies and other
22 school expenses incurred by a law student in pursuing a law degree. Upon
23 satisfaction of all commitments under the provisions of the agreement and
24 of this section, the agreement is complete.

25 (d) Each program agreement shall require that the person receiving
26 the stipend:

27 (1) Complete the law degree program at the university;

28 (2) engage in the full-time practice of law in rural Kansas within 90
29 days after admittance to the Kansas bar for a period of at least 12
30 continuous months for each separate school year that a student receives a
31 stipend under the program, unless such obligation is otherwise satisfied as
32 provided in this section; and

33 (3) upon failure to satisfy the obligation to engage in the full-time
34 practice of law in rural Kansas in accordance with the provisions of this
35 section, repay to such university, within 90 days of such failure, the

1 amount equal to the total amount of the stipend to such person less a
2 prorated amount based on any such periods of practice of law in rural
3 Kansas meeting the requirements of this section, plus interest at the prime
4 rate of interest plus 2% from the date that such stipend accrued. Such
5 interest shall be compounded annually.

6 (e) An obligation to engage in the practice of law in accordance with
7 the provisions of this section shall be postponed during any period of
8 temporary medical disability during which the person obligated is unable
9 to practice law due to such disability.

10 (f) An obligation to engage in the practice of law in accordance with
11 the provisions of the agreement and this section shall be satisfied:

12 (1) If the obligation to engage in the practice of law in accordance
13 with the agreement has been completed;

14 (2) if, because of permanent disability, the person obligated is unable
15 to practice law; or

16 (3) the person obligated dies.

17 (g) The universities may adopt additional provisions, requirements or
18 conditions to participate in this program as are practicable and appropriate
19 to accomplish the provisions of the program or may be required for the
20 implementation or administration of the program and, in any case, as are
21 not inconsistent with the provisions of this section or the provisions of
22 appropriation acts.

23 (h) The dean of university of Kansas school of law and the dean of
24 Washburn university school of law shall annually submit a report to the
25 senate committees on ways and means and judiciary and the house of
26 representatives committees on appropriations, judiciary and higher
27 education budget on the rural legal training program for rural Kansas.

28 (i) (1) There is hereby established in the state treasury the attorney
29 training program for rural Kansas fund. Such fund shall be administered
30 by the president of the state board of regents or the president's designee.
31 All moneys credited to the attorney training program for rural Kansas fund
32 shall be expended only for law students who have entered into an
33 agreement pursuant to this section. During fiscal years 2027, 2028 and
34 2029, the university of Kansas school of law may enter into agreements
35 with not more than five first-year law students and Washburn university
36 school of law may enter into agreements with not more than 10 first-year
37 law students to participate in the program. All expenditures from the
38 attorney training program for rural Kansas fund shall be made in
39 accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of
40 accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the
41 president of the state board of regents or the president's designee.

42 (2) On the following dates in the following amounts, the director of
43 accounts and reports shall transfer from the state general fund to the

1 attorney training program for rural Kansas fund:

2 (A) On July 1, 2027, \$45,000;

3 (B) on July 1, 2028, \$90,000;

4 (C) on July 1, 2029, \$135,000;

5 (D) on July 1, 2030, \$90,000; and

6 (E) on July 1, 2031, \$45,000.

7 (j) As used in this section:

8 (1) "Law student" means an individual enrolled in and attending law
9 school at the university of Kansas or Washburn university;

10 (2) "program" means the rural training program for rural Kansas
11 established pursuant to this section;

12 (3) "program agreement" means an agreement to meet all the
13 obligations provided in this section; and

14 (4) "rural Kansas" means any county in Kansas other than Douglas,
15 Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee or Wyandotte county.

16 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
17 publication in the statute book.