Session of 2025

SENATE BILL No. 298

By Committee on Ways and Means

3-18

 AN ACT concerning higher education; authorizing technical colleges and community colleges to affiliate with universities; amending K.S.A. 71-204, 71-501, 71-617, 71-1802, 72-3810, 74-32,413 and 76-712 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) Upon approval by the state board of regents or the
governing body of a municipal university, as applicable, and a majority
vote of the governing body of the technical college or community college,
a state educational institution or municipal university may enter into
agreements to affiliate with a technical college or a community college.

12 (b) As part of the affiliation, the technical college or community 13 college may change its official designation. Whenever the technical 14 college or community college, or words of like effect, is referred to or 15 designated by any statute, contract or other document, such reference or 16 designation shall be deemed to apply to the technical college or 17 community college affiliated pursuant to this section.

18 (c) (1) Except as otherwise provided herein, all of the powers and 19 duties established in the governing body of the technical college or the 20 board of trustees of the community college by law shall be transferred to 21 the affiliating state educational institution or municipal university, subject 22 to the supervision of the governing board of the affiliating state 23 educational institution or municipal university.

(2) Unless otherwise provided in the affiliation plan, the board oftrustees of an affiliated community college shall:

26

6

(A) Oversee the operation of the community college campus; and

(B) administer the funds of the community college or moneys
received from student tuition and fees, the state or the United States for the
purpose of the operation of the community college campus.

30 (3) Except as provided in subsection (1)(2) and upon affiliation of a 31 community college:

(A) No board of trustees of an affiliated community college or
governing board, president or chancellor of a state educational institution
or municipal university that affiliated with a community college pursuant
to this section shall have the authority to levy any tax on the taxable
tangible property of the community college district; and

2

1 (B) any funding responsibility for the support, operation and 2 maintenance of the community college that had been provided through 3 taxes imposed on the community college district prior to affiliation shall 4 be imposed on the state.

5 (d) (1) The governing body of the technical college or the board of 6 trustees of the community college shall become the industry advisory 7 board to the president or chancellor of the affiliating state educational 8 institution or municipal university.

9 (2) For each technical college that affiliates with a state educational institution or municipal university pursuant to this section, the president or 10 chancellor of the affiliating state educational institution or municipal 11 university shall appoint the members of the industry advisory board. The 12 members of the advisory board shall represent the industry sectors that 13 14 correspond to the programs offered by the technical college affiliated 15 pursuant to this section. For each community college that affiliates with a 16 state educational institution or municipal university pursuant to this 17 section, the members of the board of trustees shall continue to be elected 18 in accordance with the provisions of article 14 of chapter 71 of the Kansas 19 statutes annotated, and amendments thereto.

20

(e) The industry advisory board shall:

(1) Review non-credit and credit programs with the president or
 chancellor and senior leadership of the state educational institution or
 municipal university to ensure such programs are aligned with current and
 emerging needs of industry and the community for an educated and trained
 workforce; and

26 (2) provide input relating to changes in each member's industry sector27 that affect academic programs.

(f) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the following persons admitted by a state educational institution into a technical college or community college affiliated pursuant to this section shall not be subject to the admission requirements of K.S.A. 76-717, and amendments thereto, or the board of regents rules and regulations establishing qualified admission criteria for state educational institutions:

(A) Persons admitted as degree-seeking students in career technical
 education courses or programs terminating with an associate of applied
 science degree; and

(B) persons admitted as nondegree-seeking students in careertechnical education certificate programs.

(2) Persons admitted into a technical college or community college affiliated with a state educational institution pursuant to this section who subsequently seek to transfer into another school within the state educational institution, or into a bachelor's, master's or doctorate degree program shall be subject to the admission requirements of K.S.A. 76-717, and amendments thereto, and the board of regents rules and regulations
 establishing qualified admission criteria for state educational institutions.

3 (g) (1) A technical college affiliated pursuant to this section shall 4 continue to be eligible for funding that is available to technical colleges to 5 the extent provided by law. The amounts of such funding are to be 6 determined in the same manner as provided by law for technical colleges.

7 (2) A community college affiliated pursuant to this section shall 8 continue to be eligible for funding that is available to community colleges 9 to the extent provided by law. The amounts of such funding are to be 10 determined in the same manner as provided by law for community 11 colleges.

12 (h) The affiliation plan between the technical college or community college and the affiliating state educational institution or municipal 13 university shall include provisions relating to the manner and terms upon 14 which faculty, employees and students will be transferred to the affiliating 15 16 state educational institution or municipal university. Such provisions shall 17 specify terms of employment and address other personnel matters. Subject to the authorization of the governing board of the affiliating state 18 19 educational institution or municipal university, all personnel of a technical 20 college or community college affiliated pursuant to this section who are 21 necessary to the operation of such technical college or community college, 22 in accordance with the needs of the affiliating state educational institution or municipal university, may become personnel of the affiliating state 23 24 educational institution or municipal university. The employment of such 25 personnel shall be deemed uninterrupted.

(i) The affiliation of a technical college or community college with a
state educational institution or municipal university shall not affect any
contract, agreement or assurance in effect on July 1, 2025.

(j) (1) No suit, action or other proceeding, judicial or administrative,
lawfully commenced, or that could have been commenced, by or against a
technical college or community college prior to affiliation, or by or against
any personnel of such technical college or community college, shall abate
by reason of such affiliation. Any such suit, action or other proceeding
may be allowed to be maintained by or against the affiliating state
educational institution or municipal university.

36 (2) No criminal action commenced or that could have been
 37 commenced by a technical college or community college prior to
 38 affiliation shall abate by reason of such affiliation.

(k) The affiliation plan between a community college and the
affiliating state educational institution or municipal university shall include
provisions relating to any bond indebtedness of the community college.
The affiliation plan may provide that either:

43 (1) The affiliating state educational institution or municipal university

shall assume and agree to pay all of the bonded indebtedness of the
 affiliated community college; or

3 (2) the bonded indebtedness of the affiliated community college shall 4 remain a charge upon the territory of the community college district.

5 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the provisions of all 6 statutes of general application to area vocational schools, area vocational 7 technical schools or technical colleges shall apply to a technical college 8 affiliated pursuant to this section. Except as otherwise provided, the 9 provisions of all statutes of general application to community colleges 10 shall apply to a community college affiliated pursuant to this section.

(m) As used in this section:

12 (1) "Affiliation" means the association or connection of a technical 13 college or community college with a state educational institution or 14 municipal university where the technical college or community college is 15 directly or indirectly under the control of the affiliating state educational 16 institution or municipal university.

(2) "Community college" means any community college established
in accordance with chapter 71 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and
amendments thereto.

20 (3) "Community college campus" means the grounds and buildings of21 the community college.

(4) "Municipal university" means Washburn university of Topeka orany other municipal university established under the laws of this state.

(5) "State educational institution" means the university of Kansas,
Kansas state university, Wichita state university, Emporia state university,
Pittsburg state university and Fort Hays state university.

(6) "Technical college" means a technical college designated pursuant
to K.S.A. 74-32,458, 74-32,460, 74-32,461, 74-32,462, 74-32,464 or 7432,465, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 71-204 is hereby amended to read as follows: 71-204. (a) (1) For the purpose of community college maintenance and operation, the board of trustees is authorized to levy a tax on the taxable tangible property of the community college district, *except as provided in subsection (c)*.

35 (2) Such tax levy shall be the amount determined by the board of 36 trustees to be sufficient to finance that part of the budget of the community 37 college-which *that* is not financed from any other source provided by law. 38 The budget of the community college shall be prepared and adopted as 39 provided by law, and the tax levy therefor shall be certified to the county 40 clerk of every county a part of the territory of which is in the community 41 college district.

42 (b) The tax levy authorized by subsection (a) shall be reduced (1) in
 43 the 2001 fiscal year by an amount equal to 80% of the amount of the

5

difference between the amount of state aid received by the community-1 2 college in the 2000 fiscal year less an amount equal to 25% of the amount of out-district tuition received by the community college in such fiscal-3 year and the amount of the state grant to which the community college is 4 5 entitled in the 2001 fiscal year and (2) in fiscal years 2002, 2003 and 2004 6 by an amount equal to 80% of the amount of the difference between the 7 amount of the state grant received by the community college in the 8 preceding fiscal year less an amount equal to 25% of the amount of out-9 district tuition received by the community college in the 2000 fiscal year and the amount of the state grant to which the community college is-10 entitled in the current fiscal year and (3) in each fiscal year after the 2004 11 12 fiscal year by an amount equal to 80% of the amount of the difference between the amount of the state grant received by the community college 13 14 in the preceding fiscal year and the amount of the state grant to which the 15 community college is entitled in the current fiscal year.

16 (c) This section shall not apply to any community college or board of 17 trustees of a community college that affiliated with a state educational 18 institution or municipal university pursuant to section 1, and amendments 19 thereto.

20 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 71-617 is hereby amended to read as follows: 71-617. 21 (a) Except as provided in subsection (c), the board of trustees of any 22 community college may levy a tax in each year for a period of not to 23 exceed five (5) years of not to exceed one-fourth (1/4) $\frac{1}{4}$ mill on all taxable tangible property within the district to maintain and operate an 24 25 adult basic education program at a level approved by the state board. In no event shall the tax levy authorized hereunder be at a rate-which that will 26 27 produce an amount in excess of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). Such tax 28 levy shall be in addition to all other tax levies authorized or limited by law. 29 Proceeds from such tax levy shall be deposited in the adult education fund of the community college which fund is hereby established. All moneys 30 31 received by a community college for adult basic education shall be 32 deposited in the adult education fund. The expenses of a community 33 college attributable to adult basic education shall be paid from the adult 34 education fund.

35 (b) No tax levy shall be made under authority of this section until a 36 resolution authorizing such a levy is passed by the board of trustees and 37 published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper 38 having general circulation in the community college district, and such 39 resolution shall specify the millage rate of such tax levy and the period of 40 time for which such tax levy shall be made under authority thereof. After 41 the adoption of such resolution such levy may be made unless, within 42 ninety (90) days following the last publication of the resolution, a petition 43 in opposition to such levy, signed by not less than five percent (5%) of the

1 qualified electors of such community college district, is filed with the 2 county election officer of the county in which the main campus of the 3 community college is located. In the event such a petition is filed, such 4 levy shall not be made without the question of levying the same having 5 been submitted to and been approved by a majority of the qualified 6 electors of the district voting at an election-which shall be called for that 7 purpose or at the next general election.

8 (c) This section shall not apply to any community college or board of 9 trustees of a community college that affiliated with a state educational 10 institution or municipal university pursuant to section 1, and amendments 11 thereto.

12 Sec. 4. K.S.A. 71-501 is hereby amended to read as follows: 71-501. (a) Except as provided in subsection (e), the board of trustees of any 13 14 community college is authorized to make an annual tax levy for a period of 15 not to exceed five years of not to exceed two mills upon all taxable 16 tangible property in the community college district for the purpose of 17 construction, reconstruction, repair, remodeling, additions to, furnishing and equipping of community college buildings, architectural expenses 18 19 incidental thereto, and the acquisition of real property for use as building 20 sites or for educational programs. No levy shall be made under this section 21 until a resolution authorizing the levy is passed by the board of trustees 22 and published once each week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper 23 having general circulation in the community college district. The 24 resolution shall specify the mill rate of the tax levy and the period of time 25 for which the tax levy shall be made under authority thereof. After adoption of the resolution, the levy may be made unless, within 60 days 26 27 following the last publication of the resolution, a petition in opposition to 28 the levy, signed by not less than 5% of the qualified electors of the 29 community college district, is filed with the county election officer of the 30 county in which the main campus of the community college is located. If a 31 petition is filed, the levy shall not be made without the question of levying 32 the same having been submitted to and approved by a majority of the 33 qualified electors of the district voting at an election called for that 34 purpose or at the next general election. If a petition is filed and no election 35 is held, a new resolution authorizing a levy for the purposes specified in 36 this section may not be adopted for a period of one year after the filing of 37 the petition.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (e), whenever an initial resolution has been adopted under subsection (a) and the resolution specified a lesser mill rate than two mills, the board of trustees of the community college may adopt a second resolution under the same procedure as is provided in subsection (a) for the initial resolution and, subject to the same conditions and for the same purposes as provided in

1 subsection (a), shall be authorized to make an additional tax levy in an 2 amount to be specified in the second resolution for the remainder of the 3 period of time specified in the initial resolution for the making of the levy 4 under authority thereof. Any second resolution shall be limited in amount 5 as specified in subsection (a), less such amount as was authorized in the 6 initial resolution, and not to exceed an aggregate amount of two mills in 7 any one year. If any such resolution is adopted and the tax levy therein 8 specified is authorized under the conditions specified in subsection (a), the 9 amount of bonds which may be issued under K.S.A. 71-502, and 10 amendments thereto, may be increased accordingly.

11 (c) *Except as provided in subsection (e),* the board of trustees of any 12 community college-which *that* has made a tax levy under this section may 13 initiate, at any time after the final levy is certified to the county clerk under 14 any current authorization, procedures to renew its authority to make a like 15 annual tax levy in the amount, upon the conditions, and in the manner 16 specified in subsection (a).

(d) As used in this act, "unconditionally authorized to make a tax levy
under authority of article 5 of chapter 71 of Kansas Statutes Annotated"
means that the board of trustees of the community college has adopted a
resolution under this section, has published the same, and either that such
resolution was not protested or that it was protested and an election was
held by which the tax levy of the community college was approved.

23 (e) This section shall not apply to any community college or board of 24 trustees of a community college that affiliated with a state educational 25 institution or municipal university pursuant to section 1, and amendments thereto. If a community college board of trustees has authorized an annual 26 27 tax levy pursuant to this section and affiliates with a state educational 28 institution or municipal university pursuant to section 1, and amendments 29 thereto, during the period in which such levy is authorized, the levy shall 30 not be made after the date of affiliation. The board of trustees shall notify 31 the county clerk of the termination of the levy.

Sec. 5. K.S.A. 71-1802 is hereby amended to read as follows: 71-1802. As used in K.S.A. 71-1801 through 71-1810, and amendments thereto:

(a) "Community college" means any community college establishedin accordance with chapter 71 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated.

(b) "Community college operating grant" means the operating grant
provided for under subsection (a) of K.S.A. 71-620, and amendments
thereto, prior to fiscal year 2012.

40 (c) (1) "Credit hour" means the basic unit of collegiate level 41 instruction, as determined by the state board, in a subject or course offered 42 by an eligible institution at a postsecondary level not higher than those 43 programs or courses normally offered to freshmen and sophomores in four-year public institutions of postsecondary education, in a program that
 has been approved by the state board.

3 (2) The term "credit hour" does not include instruction in a program 4 or course taken by a student enrolled for audit or not for postsecondary 5 credit, or in any program or course not approved by the state board.

6 (3) The state board shall determine whether the programs and courses 7 offered are at the level of freshmen and sophomore programs and courses 8 offered in the state educational institutions and shall not approve for 9 funding any program or course offered at a higher level.

10 (d) "Eligible institution" or "institution" means any community 11 college, technical college or, the institute of technology or any technical 12 college or community college that affiliated with a state educational 13 institution or municipal university pursuant to section 1, and amendments 14 thereto.

(e) "Institute of technology," "institute" or "Washburn institute oftechnology" means the institute of technology at Washburn university.

17 (f) "Municipal university" means Washburn university of Topeka or 18 any other municipal university established under the laws of this state.

19 (q)"Non-tiered course" means any postsecondary credit-bearing 20 course offered by an eligible institution and identified by the state board as 21 not meeting the definition of a tiered technical course. Non-tiered courses 22 include courses that are generally designed to: (1) Contribute to academic 23 knowledge or skills across multiple disciplines and occupations, such as 24 communication, writing, mathematics, humanities, social or behavioral 25 science and natural or physical science courses, some of which may be considered for transfer as general education credit toward a baccalaureate 26 27 degree; (2) contribute to general knowledge or skills in areas such as 28 critical thinking and reasoning, problem solving, use of technology and 29 teamwork skills; (3) provide instruction in basic or foundational skills 30 necessary for individuals to effectively participate in technical programs; 31 (4) prepare individuals for certification or licensure exams or re-32 certifications and skill updates; or (5) allow individuals to explore various 33 career opportunities. Seminars, workshops or other courses that are 34 supplemental to the primary instruction required for the occupationally 35 specific technical program shall be considered non-tiered courses, unless 36 otherwise specified by the state board.

37 (g)(h) "State board of regents" or "state board" means the state board 38 of regents provided for in the constitution of this state and established by 39 K.S.A. 74-3202a, and amendments thereto.

40 (h)(i) "State educational institution" means the university of Kansas,
41 Kansas state university, Wichita state university, Emporia state university,
42 Pittsburg state university and Fort Hays state university.

43 (j) "Technical college" means a technical college designated pursuant

1 to K.S.A. 74-32,458, 74-32,460, 74-32,461, 74-32,462, 74-32,464 or 74-32,465, and amendments thereto.

3 (i)(k) "Technical program" means any program of study comprised of a sequence of tiered technical courses and non-tiered courses, which 4 5 program is identified by the state board as a technical program for funding 6 purposes. Technical programs must: (1) Be designed to prepare individuals 7 for gainful employment in current or emerging technical occupations 8 requiring other than a baccalaureate or advanced degree; (2) lead to 9 technical skill proficiency, an industry-recognized credential, a certificate or an associate degree; and (3) be delivered by an eligible institution. 10

11 (j)(l) "Tiered technical course" means a postsecondary credit-bearing 12 course included in the sequence of courses comprising a technical 13 program, which course is itself designed to provide competency-based 14 applied instruction to prepare individuals with occupationally specific 15 knowledge and skills necessary for employment, and which the state board 16 has identified as a tiered technical course.

17 (k)(m) "Tiered technical course credit hour" means a credit hour in a 18 tiered technical course.

19 (+)(n) "Washburn institute of technology operating grant" means any 20 legislative appropriation designated for non-tiered courses delivered by the 21 Washburn institute of technology.

Sec. 6. K.S.A. 72-3810 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-3810. (a) Students admitted to a career technical education course or program-which *that* is conducted by the school district in which the student is enrolled may be charged fees but shall not be charged tuition.

(b) Postsecondary students admitted to a career technical education
 course or program shall pay tuition and fees as provided by laws
 applicable thereto.

(c) (1) Secondary students admitted to a career technical education course or program—which that is conducted by a community college, technical college—or, institute of technology or any technical college or community college that affiliated with a state educational institution or municipal university pursuant to section 1, and amendments thereto, may be charged fees; but shall not be charged tuition.

35 (2) Each-school academic year, to the extent there are sufficient 36 moneys appropriated to the career technical education secondary program, 37 the state board of regents shall distribute state funds to community 38 colleges, technical colleges, any technical college or community college 39 that affiliated with a state educational institution or municipal university pursuant to section 1, and amendments thereto, and the Washburn institute 40 41 of technology for the cost associated with secondary students enrolled in 42 postsecondary career technical education programs as determined by the 43 state board of regents.

10

1 (3) For purposes of this subsection:

2 (A) "Community college" means any community college established 3 in accordance with chapter 71 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and 4 amendments thereto.

5 (B) "Fees" means those charges assessed against a student by a 6 community college, technical college-or, the institute of technology, *a* 7 state educational institution or a municipal university for student services, 8 such as health clinics, athletic activities and technology services, or for 9 books, supplies or other materials necessary for a particular course or 10 program, the expense of which is not covered by tuition.

11 (C) "Institute of technology" means the institute of technology atWashburn university.

(D) "Municipal university" means Washburn university of Topeka or
 any other municipal university established under the laws of this state.

15 *(E)* "Secondary student" means a pupil who: (i) Has not attained a 16 high school diploma or a general educational development (GED) 17 credential; and (ii) is regularly enrolled in and attending a public or private 18 secondary school.

(F) "State educational institution" means the university of Kansas,
Kansas state university, Wichita state university, Emporia state university,
Pittsburg state university and Fort Hays state university.

22 (E)(G) "Technical college" means a technical college designated 23 pursuant to K.S.A. 74-32,458, 74-32,460, 74-32,461, 74-32,462, 74-24 32,464 or 74-32,465, and amendments thereto.

25 (F)(H) "Tuition" means those charges assessed against a student by a 26 community college, technical college, *any technical college or community* 27 *college that affiliated with a state educational institution or municipal* 28 *university pursuant to section 1, and amendments thereto,* or the institute 29 of technology on a per credit hour, per course or per term basis, and that 30 are charged to cover the general expense of providing instructional 31 services.

(d) Students admitted to a vocational career technical education
course or program which that is not conducted by the school district in
which the student is enrolled shall be charged tuition and fees determined
in accordance with subsection (e), subject however to the following:

36 (1) Tuition or fees, or tuition and fees may be paid for the student in
37 accordance with any agreement made under K.S.A. 72-3814, and
38 amendments thereto; or

(2) if *the* tuition of a student is not paid under paragraph (1)-of this subsection, the tuition of the student shall be paid by the school district in which the student is enrolled. No school district shall pay tuition for a student who is a postsecondary student, and no school district shall be required to pay tuition or fees of a student who is eligible to have tuition and fees for the course or training the student selects paid by any state or
 federal agency from moneys, funds or appropriations made available under
 any one or more state or federal programs. Any state agency administering
 any one or more such programs shall pay such tuition and fees upon proper
 application by a student therefor.

6 (e) All tuition and fees charged for career technical education by any 7 board shall be in such amounts as are authorized by rules and regulations 8 adopted by the state board, which shall establish general guidelines for 9 tuition and fee schedules in career technical education courses and 10 programs, except that tuition of postsecondary students shall be fixed in accordance with K.S.A. 72-4433*, and amendments thereto. The particular 11 tuition and fee schedule of every career technical education program shall 12 be subject to annual approval of the state board. A current complete 13 14 schedule of tuition and fees for each career technical education course and 15 program of each board as approved by the state board shall be maintained 16 on file in the office of the state board, and shall be open for public 17 inspection at any reasonable time.

18 Sec. 7. K.S.A. 74-32,413 is hereby amended to read as follows: 74-19 32,413. As used in this act:

(a) "Board," "state board," "school year" and "technical college" have
the meanings respectively ascribed thereto mean the same as defined in
K.S.A. 74-32,407, and amendments thereto.

(b) "Career technical education capital outlay aid" means state
financial aid distributed under this act by the state board to an eligible
institution for the purpose of construction, reconstruction, repair,
remodeling, additions to, furnishing and equipping of buildings,
architectural expenses incidental thereto, the acquisition of buildings and
building sites and the acquisition of equipment.

(c) "Eligible institution" or "institution" means any technical college, 29 30 Coffeyville community college, Cowley county community college, Dodge City community college, Highland community college, Hutchinson 31 32 community college, Johnson county community college, Kansas City, 33 Kansas community college, Pratt community college, Seward county 34 community college-and, the institute of technology at Washburn university 35 and any technical college or community college that affiliated with a state 36 educational institution or municipal university pursuant to section 1, and 37 amendments thereto.

(d) "Municipal university" means Washburn university of Topeka or
 any other municipal university established under the laws of this state.

40 (e) "State educational institution" means the university of Kansas,
41 Kansas state university, Wichita state university, Emporia state university,
42 Pittsburg state university and Fort Hays state university.

43 Sec. 8. K.S.A. 76-712 is hereby amended to read as follows: 76-712.

Except as otherwise provided by act of the legislature, the state 1 2 educational institutions are separate state agencies and state institutions and shall be controlled by and operated and managed under the 3 supervision of the board of regents. For such control, operation, 4 management or supervision, the board of regents may make contracts and 5 6 adopt orders, policies or rules and regulations and do or perform such 7 other acts as are authorized by law or are appropriate for such purposes, 8 except that no state educational institution, or campus thereof, shall be 9 closed, combined or merged with any other state educational institution, for administrative or management or other purposes, except as authorized 10 in section 1, and amendments thereto, or specifically authorized by 11 12 appropriations or other act of the legislature.

13 Sec. 9. K.S.A. 71-204, 71-501, 71-617, 71-1802, 72-3810, 74-32,413
14 and 76-712 are hereby repealed.

15 Sec. 10. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its 16 publication in the statute book.