

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2248

As Amended by House Committee on Higher
Education Budget

Brief*

HB 2248, as amended, would create the Kansas Nursing Initiative Grant Program (Program) to provide need-based or competitive grants to support postsecondary educational institutions with costs associated with nursing programs.

The bill would provide that the Program is administered by the State Board of Regents (Board of Regents) and that any postsecondary educational institution with an accredited nursing may be eligible to submit an application.

[Note: The Kansas Nursing Initiative is currently authorized through a budget proviso, and, in HB 2007 \$3.8 million state general fund (SGF) was appropriated for FY 2026.]

Definitions

The bill would define a “postsecondary educational institution” as a postsecondary institution with a physical presence in Kansas that offers a course of instruction in nursing that is nationally accredited and approved by the Board of Nursing.

*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 <https://klrd.gov/>

Matching Grants

The bill would require the Board of Regents to require a funding match of non-state moneys on a dollar-for-dollar basis in order for an institution to be eligible to receive funding under the Program.

The bill would allow for grant funding to be used for, but not limited to, the following:

- Supplies and equipment needed for courses within the nursing program;
- Salaries for instructors including adjunct clinical instructors;
- Funding for additional faculty;
- Professional development for instructors;
- Student support services including NCLEX Test Prep and other tutoring or test prep services; and
- Student support that may impact the students' ability to complete the program including but not limited to child care.

Program Administration

The bill would require the Board of Regents to establish criteria for reviewing applications for grants and, within the limitations of appropriations, determine the amount and number of grants, and be responsible for payment of grants to institutions

Report

The bill would require each institution that is awarded a grant to submit a report of statistical and financial information to the Board of Regents upon request.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Health and Human Services at the request of Representative Turner on behalf of the Kansas Hospital Association.

House Committee on Higher Education Budget

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives from the Kansas Hospital Association and Board of Regents. The former provided history of the current nursing initiative, spoke about the nursing shortage across the state, and stated that this bill would help modernize existing state programs, assist in retaining nurse educators, and provide access to equipment to help students be prepared to work in the field. The latter gave an overview of how this budget item initiative has been funded by the Legislature and provided a comparison list between what the bill would do and how the current program is administered.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of Advent Health South Overland Park, Kansas Independent College Association, and Leading Age Kansas.

No other testimony was provided.

On February 14, 2025, the House Committee amended the bill to:

- Change the definition of “postsecondary educational institution” to include an institution with a physical presence in Kansas that offers a course of instruction in nursing that is both nationally accredited and approved by the Board of Nursing;
- Remove eligibility requirements for institutions;

- Require a dollar-for-dollar match from the institution eligible to receive the grant; and
- Expand the allowable uses of grant funding.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Board of Regents indicates the bill would increase the funding available for non-consumable lab supplies and equipment from \$30,000 to \$100,000. The Board of Regents estimates additional State General Fund expenditures of \$2,730,000 in FY 2026 and FY 2027 for the increased limit on lab supplies and equipment (\$70,000 additional funding x 39 qualifying institutions). The Board states without additional funding, the grants awarded would be either less than the new \$100,000 maximum or fewer institutions would receive grants. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in the *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

Kansas Board of Regents; nursing; postsecondary education; nursing program