

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 193

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

SB 193 would require each postsecondary educational institution to publish a single-page degree prospectus for each degree program offered by such institution, featuring information and statistics on the degree program. The information required in the degree prospectus would include: a description of the degree; average years to obtain degree; aggregate cost and cost per year incurred by the individual; aggregate degree investment incurred by an individual subtracting grants and scholarships awarded; average time between graduation and full-time employment; a graphical representation of the salary distribution of students who obtain the degree; percentage of graduates who obtain the degree and become employed in the field from such institution; percentage of graduates who are employed within six months from the date of graduation; and a chart displaying the number of years required to fully recoup the degree investment incurred by an individual. The bill also would allow postsecondary institutions to offer \$100 as an incentive to graduates to provide information to the institution for a more accurate degree prospectus.

Background

In the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, proponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Policy Institute. He stated the degree prospectus would allow students and their parents to make informed decisions on their investment in higher education.

*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>

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative from the Board of Regents appreciating the spirit of the bill but stating the scope would require a major investment of human capital at each institution. He asked to work with the author(s) and legislative staff to revise the bill and address concerns in order to ensure complete and accurate information.

No opponent testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to add an additional data field of the aggregate degree investment incurred by an individual to obtain the degree by subtracting grants and scholarships awarded and to remove reference to “pay off student loans” and replace with “recoup degree investment.” There also was a deletion of the word “required,” in reference to average number of years to obtain the degree.

The Senate Committee of the Whole made a technical amendment to remove the use of “federal student loan” and instead insert “degree investment” to match all other references that were changed from “student loans” to “degree investment”. There also was an amendment adopted to change the date established in the statute from January 1, 2016 to July 1, 2016, for publication of the prospectus to allow the universities an additional six months to prepare the reports. The amendment also changed one of the required data sets to be published on the prospectus to graduates employed after six months, instead of three months.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, states the bill would increase costs for state universities, Washburn University, community colleges, and technical colleges by \$6.6 million. The cost of additional staff salary and benefits is estimated at \$2.0 million and \$272,600 for possible IT system enhancements for the data collection. Additionally, the fiscal note indicates the incentive payments allocated to graduates that provide information would potentially total \$4.3 million if all graduates were provided the incentive.

A revised fiscal note was prepared to provide a range of costs for the incentive payment if provided to between 25.0 and 75.0 percent of the graduates. This cost would range from between \$3.4 and \$5.5 million instead of the \$6.6 million from the original fiscal note.