

HOUSE BILL No. 2519

By Committee on Education

1-29

1 AN ACT concerning postsecondary education; creating the students' right
2 to know act; relating to the publication of certain information regarding
3 postsecondary education.
4

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

6 Section 1. (a) The provisions of this section shall be known and may
7 be cited as the students' right to know act.

8 (b) Each year the state department of education shall compile the
9 following information, which shall be used by the department in the
10 preparation of the student graduate horizon scorecard required under
11 subsection (c) and the student horizon database required under subsection
12 (d):

13 (1) A list of those occupations the department of labor has identified
14 as having the highest need in terms of open positions in this state;

15 (2) the average aggregate cost to obtain a degree or certificate from
16 each postsecondary educational institution and private postsecondary
17 educational institution;

18 (3) the average total student loan debt incurred by an individual who
19 has received a degree or certificate from a postsecondary educational
20 institution and a private postsecondary educational institution;

21 (4) the average monthly student loan payment obligation for an
22 individual who attended a postsecondary educational institution and
23 private postsecondary educational institution;

24 (5) the average student loan default rate for the three most recent
25 years such data is available;

26 (6) the average graduation rate for each postsecondary educational
27 institution and private postsecondary educational institution;

28 (7) the percentage of individuals holding a degree who are employed
29 in an occupation that does not require that the employee hold a degree,
30 disaggregated by major course of study;

31 (8) the average salary for individuals upon graduation from a
32 postsecondary educational institution or private postsecondary educational
33 institution that offers baccalaureate degrees;

34 (9) the average salary for individuals upon graduation from a
35 postsecondary educational institution or private postsecondary educational
36 institution that does not offer baccalaureate degrees;

1 (10) the average salary for individuals upon completion of any of the
2 following:

- 3 (A) An apprenticeship program;
4 (B) a high school credential program; or
5 (C) a career and technical education certificate program; and
6 (11) the base salary for an individual who enlists in each of the
7 branches of the United States armed forces.

8 (c) (1) The state department of education shall prepare and publish on
9 its website a student graduate horizon scorecard in accordance with this
10 section. On or before October 15, 2021, and each year thereafter, the
11 department shall distribute the student graduate horizon scorecard to the
12 school guidance counselors in each public secondary school in the state.

13 (2) The student graduate horizon scorecard shall contain the
14 following information:

15 (A) A list of the 50 courses of study leading to a bachelor's degree
16 whose graduates earn the highest average salary upon graduation;

17 (B) a list of the 20 courses of study or educational programs offered
18 by private postsecondary educational institutions whose graduates earn the
19 highest average salary upon graduation or completion of such program;

20 (C) a list of the 25 occupations the department of labor has identified
21 as having the highest need in terms of open positions in this state; and

22 (D) a list of the branches of the United States armed forces that
23 includes the following information for each branch:

- 24 (i) First-time enlistment rate;
25 (ii) base salary, including benefits and the average signing bonus; and
26 (iii) necessary armed services vocational aptitude battery score.

27 (d) (1) On or before July 1, 2021, the state department of education
28 shall establish a student horizon database to serve as an online tool for
29 students to compare postsecondary education options. The student horizon
30 database shall contain a list of the 50 postsecondary educational
31 institutions and private postsecondary educational institutions that have the
32 highest enrollment in the immediately preceding year.

33 (2) The student horizon database shall provide a searchable database
34 of the following information for postsecondary educational institutions and
35 private postsecondary educational institutions that allows for comparison
36 of such information based on the user's data category selections:

- 37 (A) The average annual cost of attendance;
38 (B) the graduation rate;
39 (C) the average annual salary of an individual upon graduation;
40 (D) the average annual salary of an individual who has withdrawn
41 from such institution prior to graduation;

42 (E) the average salary upon graduation or completion of each of the
43 five major courses of study or educational programs that have the highest

- 1 enrollment in the immediately preceding year;
- 2 (F) the average enrollment of students who are enrolled on a full-
- 3 time basis, as defined by such institution;
- 4 (G) the socio-economic demographics of such institution;
- 5 (H) the racial and ethnic demographics of such institution;
- 6 (I) the family income demographics of such institution;
- 7 (J) the percentage of former students who are not in default on any
- 8 student loan obligations;
- 9 (K) the average total student debt obligations for an individual upon
- 10 graduation;
- 11 (L) the aggregate number of students who accepted financial
- 12 assistance in the form of student loans;
- 13 (M) the average monthly student loan payment obligation for an
- 14 individual upon graduation;
- 15 (N) the number of students who re-enroll in such institution after the
- 16 first year of enrollment;
- 17 (O) for the cohort of students who enrolled in such institution for the
- 18 first time 12 years prior to the current year, the number of such students
- 19 who graduated, withdrew from such institution, transferred away from
- 20 such institution or who are currently enrolled in such institution; and
- 21 (P) the percentage of individuals holding a degree from such
- 22 institution who are employed in an occupation that does not require that
- 23 the employee hold a degree, disaggregated by major course of study.
- 24 (3) The student horizon database shall include a function whereby the
- 25 user may select a course of study or educational program at a particular
- 26 postsecondary educational institution or private postsecondary educational
- 27 institution and receive an electronic response that provides an overview of
- 28 such course of study or educational program. Such response shall be in a
- 29 form substantially similar to the following: "For every 100 students who
- 30 start [course of study or educational program] at [postsecondary
- 31 educational institution or private postsecondary educational institution],
- 32 [number] will graduate or complete such program in six years, and of
- 33 those students, [number] will be employed at an average annual starting
- 34 salary of [salary amount] within six months after graduation or completion
- 35 of such program. The average student loan debt for students upon
- 36 graduation or completion of such program will be [debt amount]. The
- 37 average total cost for a degree or certificate in [course of study or
- 38 educational program] is [average total cost amount]. Those students who
- 39 do not graduate or complete such program will incur an average student
- 40 loan debt of [debt amount]."
- 41 (e) The department shall enter into memorandums of understanding
- 42 and any other necessary agreements with the state board of regents, the
- 43 department of labor and any other state agencies or other entities as

1 required to compile the information to be included in the report.

2 (f) As used in this section:

3 (1) "Postsecondary educational institution" means the same as
4 defined in K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments thereto; and

5 (2) "private postsecondary educational institution" means an entity
6 that is not a postsecondary educational institution and that:

7 (A) Is a business enterprise, whether operated on a for-profit or not-
8 for-profit basis;

9 (B) has a physical presence within the state of Kansas; and

10 (C) offers a course or courses of instruction or study through
11 classroom contact, by distance education or through direct training for the
12 purpose of training or preparing persons for a field of endeavor in a
13 business, trade, technical or industrial occupation, or that offers a course or
14 courses leading to an academic degree or certification.

15 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after
16 January 1, 2021, and its publication in the statute book.