

SENATE BILL No. 336

By Committee on Education

1-29

1 AN ACT concerning postsecondary education; relating to scholarship
2 programs; creating the Kansas reinvest in postsecondary education act.

3
4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. The provisions of sections 1 through 7, and amendments
6 thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the Kansas reinvest in
7 postsecondary education act.

8 Sec. 2. As used in sections 1 through 7, and amendments thereto:

9 (a) "Board" means the state board of regents provided for in the
10 constitution of this state and described in article 32 of chapter 74 of the
11 Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.

12 (b) "Bridge program" means a baccalaureate degree program
13 approved by the board for the Kansas RISE scholarship program whereby
14 a student holding an associate degree may obtain a bachelor's degree from
15 a four-year eligible postsecondary educational institution within two years
16 after entering such baccalaureate program.

17 (c) "Continuous enrollment" means a student is enrolled in a
18 minimum of six credit hours in each of the fall and spring semesters of a
19 single academic year until such student has graduated or completed the
20 certificate program. Enrollment during the summer is not required for
21 "continuous enrollment."

22 (d) "Eligible high school" means any public or private secondary
23 school located in Kansas.

24 (e) "Eligible postsecondary educational institution" means any
25 postsecondary educational institution or any private postsecondary
26 educational institution that:

27 (1) Is accredited by and in good standing with the higher learning
28 commission of the north central association of colleges and universities;
29 and

30 (2) offers an associate degree or an industry-recognized certificate in
31 a technical profession.

32 (f) "Eligible postsecondary education program" means an associate
33 degree program, a career and technical education program or a bridge
34 program that is offered by an eligible postsecondary educational institution
35 whereby a student can obtain a degree or an industry-recognized certificate
36 in a technical profession.

1 (g) "Four-year eligible postsecondary educational institution" means
2 an eligible postsecondary educational institution that offers baccalaureate
3 degrees in addition to associate degrees or industry-recognized certificates
4 in technical professions.

5 (h) "Gift aid" means financial aid received from a federal Pell grant
6 and any other scholarship or financial assistance awards that do not require
7 repayment.

8 (i) "Postsecondary educational institution" means the same as defined
9 in K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments thereto.

10 (j) "Private postsecondary educational institution" means an entity
11 that is not a postsecondary educational institution, and that:

12 (1) Is a business enterprise, whether operated on a for-profit or not-
13 for-profit basis;

14 (2) has a physical presence within the state of Kansas; and

15 (3) offers a course or courses of instruction or study through
16 classroom contact or by distance education, or both, for the purpose of
17 training or preparing persons for a field of endeavor in a business, trade,
18 technical or industrial occupation, or that offers a course or courses leading
19 to an academic degree.

20 (k) "Semester" means one of two principal terms, when there are only
21 two principal terms in the academic year, whether or not there are other
22 shorter terms during the same academic year.

23 Sec. 3. (a) There is hereby established the Kansas RISE scholarship
24 program. The state board of regents shall administer such program, and
25 shall:

26 (1) Publicize Kansas RISE scholarships, including the list of eligible
27 postsecondary education programs and information regarding application
28 procedures and deadlines;

29 (2) review and approve or deny applications for a Kansas RISE
30 scholarship;

31 (3) request any information from an eligible postsecondary
32 educational institution the board deems necessary for the administration of
33 this act;

34 (4) establish requirements for mentoring and guidance sessions for
35 students participating in the program; and

36 (5) annually evaluate the Kansas RISE scholarship program and
37 prepare and submit reports in accordance with section 7, and amendments
38 thereto.

39 (b) On or before January 1, 2021, the board shall adopt rules and
40 regulations for the implementation and administration of this act,
41 including, but not limited to:

42 (1) Deadlines for applications to be submitted;

43 (2) appeal procedures for denial or revocation of a scholarship; and

1 (3) procedures for requesting and approving medical and personal
2 absences from an eligible postsecondary education program.

3 Sec. 4. To be eligible for a Kansas RISE scholarship, a student shall:

4 (a) Be a Kansas resident;

5 (b) (1) be enrolled in grade 12 in an eligible high school;

6 (2) have graduated from an eligible high school not less than five
7 years prior to applying for a Kansas RISE scholarship;

8 (3) have been in the custody of the secretary for children and families
9 as a minor pursuant to the revised Kansas code for care of children at any
10 time while enrolled in any of the grades six through 12; or

11 (4) have obtained a general educational development (GED)
12 certificate;

13 (c) complete the required scholarship application on such forms and
14 in such manner as established by the board;

15 (d) complete the free application for federal student aid for the
16 academic year in which the student seeks to receive a Kansas RISE
17 scholarship;

18 (e) participate in mentoring and guidance sessions as required by the
19 board; and

20 (f) enroll in an eligible postsecondary education program for the fall
21 semester immediately following submission of the student's scholarship
22 application.

23 Sec. 5. (a) Subject to the limitation provided in subsection (b), the
24 amount of a Kansas RISE scholarship for a student for each semester shall
25 be: (1) The aggregate amount of tuition and mandatory fees for the eligible
26 postsecondary education program for the semester in which the student is
27 enrolled less the aggregate amount of all other gift aid awarded to such
28 student for such semester; plus (2) an amount equal to \$250 to pay for all,
29 or a portion of, the cost of books and materials for such semester.

30 (b) If a student is enrolled in an eligible postsecondary education
31 program offered by a four-year eligible postsecondary educational
32 institution, the aggregate amount of tuition, mandatory fees and the cost of
33 books and materials for such eligible postsecondary education program
34 shall be the average cost of tuition, mandatory fees and the cost of books
35 and materials for such eligible postsecondary education program when
36 offered by an eligible public postsecondary educational institution that is
37 not a four-year institution.

38 (c) The amount of a Kansas RISE scholarship for a student enrolled
39 in an eligible postsecondary education program offered by a four-year
40 eligible postsecondary educational institution shall be funded based on \$1
41 from such four-year eligible postsecondary educational institution's
42 endowment or other scholarship granting fund for every \$1 paid by the
43 board pursuant to this act.

1 Sec. 6. (a) A student who has been approved for a Kansas RISE
2 scholarship shall continue to receive a Kansas RISE scholarship for up to
3 two years from the date such student enrolls in an eligible postsecondary
4 education program pursuant to section 4(f), and amendments thereto,
5 provided, such student:

6 (1) Is continuously enrolled in such eligible postsecondary education
7 program;

8 (2) maintains a cumulative grade point average that is not less than
9 2.0; and

10 (3) continues to participate in mentoring and guidance sessions as
11 required by the board.

12 (b) A student who has an approved medical or personal leave of
13 absence from an eligible postsecondary educational institution may
14 continue to receive such student's Kansas RISE scholarship upon resuming
15 such student's education at an eligible postsecondary educational
16 institution, provided, such student continues to satisfy all applicable
17 eligibility requirements. The aggregate amount of approved leave for a
18 student shall not exceed six months, except as provided in rules and
19 regulations adopted by the board.

20 Sec. 7. (a) On or before January 15, 2022, and each January 15
21 thereafter, the board shall prepare and submit a report to the legislature and
22 the governor on the Kansas RISE scholarship program. The report shall
23 provide the following information for the immediately preceding academic
24 year:

25 (1) The number of students who applied for a Kansas RISE
26 scholarship, the total number of students receiving a scholarship and the
27 number of students receiving a scholarship disaggregated by those students
28 who are eligible pursuant to section 4(b)(1), (2), (3) and (4), and
29 amendments thereto;

30 (2) the total amount of scholarship moneys awarded and the amount
31 of scholarship moneys awarded disaggregated by those students who are
32 eligible pursuant to section 4(b)(1), (2), (3) and (4), and amendments
33 thereto;

34 (3) the number of students who completed an eligible postsecondary
35 education program; and

36 (4) the number of students who became employed within six months
37 after completion of an eligible postsecondary education program.

38 (b) On or before January 15, 2022, the board shall prepare and submit
39 a report to the legislature and the governor that evaluates and makes
40 recommendations regarding funding for Kansas RISE scholarships under
41 the provisions of section 5(c), and amendments thereto.

42 Sec. 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
43 publication in the statute book.