

SENATE BILL No. 43

By Committee on Education

1-21

1 AN ACT concerning postsecondary education; relating to the state board
2 of regents; creating the Kansas promise scholarship act and the Kansas
3 promise scholarship program fund.

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

6 Section 1. (a) Sections 1 through 6, and amendments thereto, shall be
7 known and may be cited as the Kansas promise scholarship act.

8 (b) As used in the Kansas promise scholarship act:

9 (1) "Eligible institution" means:

10 (A) Any community college or technical college established under
11 the laws of this state;

12 (B) the Washburn institute of technology; or

13 (C) any not-for-profit institution of postsecondary education with its
14 main campus or principal place of operation in Kansas that offers a
15 promise eligible program, is operated independently and not controlled or
16 administered by any state agency or subdivision of the state, maintains
17 open enrollment and is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting
18 agency for higher education in the United States.

19 (2) "Eligible student" means a person who:

20 (A) Is a resident of Kansas; and

21 (B) (i) has recently graduated from an accredited Kansas public or
22 private secondary school;

23 (ii) has recently completed the requirements for graduation at a non-
24 accredited private secondary school as provided in K.S.A. 72-4345, and
25 amendments thereto;

26 (iii) has recently obtained a high school equivalency certificate after
27 attending an accredited Kansas public or private secondary school or non-
28 accredited private school as provided in K.S.A. 72-4345, and amendments
29 thereto;

30 (iv) is 21 years of age or older and, upon application for a
31 scholarship, has been a resident of Kansas for three or more consecutive
32 years; or

33 (v) is a dependent child of a military servicemember permanently
34 stationed in another state and recently graduated or completed the
35 requirements for high school graduation at any out-of-state secondary
36 school or obtained a high school equivalency certificate.

1 (3) "Promise eligible program" means any two-year associate degree
2 program or career and technical education certificate or stand-alone
3 program offered by an eligible institution and identified by the state board
4 pursuant to section 4, and amendments thereto, as a "promise eligible
5 program" in any of the following fields of study:

6 (A) Information technology and security;

7 (B) physical and mental healthcare; or

8 (C) advanced manufacturing and building trades.

9 (4) "State board" means the state board of regents.

10 Sec. 2. (a) There is hereby established the Kansas promise
11 scholarship program. Subject to appropriations therefor, a scholarship may
12 be awarded to any eligible student who enrolls in a promise eligible
13 program at an eligible institution. The scholarship amount shall be the
14 aggregate amount of tuition, required fees and the cost of books and
15 required materials for the promise eligible program minus the amount
16 received from any grants, scholarships or other financial assistance awards
17 that do not require repayment.

18 (b) To receive a Kansas promise scholarship, an eligible student shall:

19 (1) Complete a scholarship application on such forms and in such
20 manner as established by the state board;

21 (2) complete the free application for federal student aid;

22 (3) enroll in a promise eligible program at an eligible institution; and

23 (4) enter into a scholarship agreement as provided in section 3, and
24 amendments thereto.

25 Sec. 3. (a) As a condition to the award of a scholarship, an eligible
26 student shall enter into a scholarship agreement with the state board. Such
27 scholarship agreement shall require that the eligible student:

28 (1) Enroll as a full-time or part-time student in a promise eligible
29 program at an eligible institution and complete the promise eligible
30 program;

31 (2) maintain satisfactory academic progress toward completion of the
32 promise eligible program;

33 (3) within six months of completion of the promise eligible program:

34 (A) Reside in and commence work in the state of Kansas for at least
35 two consecutive years; or

36 (B) enroll as a full-time or part-time student in any public or not-for-
37 profit postsecondary educational institution with its main campus or
38 principal place of operation located in Kansas, and upon graduation or
39 failure to re-enroll, reside in and commence work in the state of Kansas for
40 at least two consecutive years;

41 (4) maintain records and make reports as may be required by the state
42 board to document the satisfaction of the obligations of the Kansas
43 promise scholarship program; and

1 (5) upon failure to satisfy the requirements of a scholarship
2 agreement, repay the scholarship amount as provided in section 5, and
3 amendments thereto.

4 (b) The state board may postpone any requirement of a scholarship
5 agreement for good cause in accordance with rules and regulations
6 adopted by the state board.

7 (c) A scholarship recipient satisfies the requirements of the Kansas
8 promise scholarship program if such recipient:

9 (1) Completes the requirements of the scholarship agreement;

10 (2) commences service as a military servicemember after receiving a
11 Kansas promise scholarship;

12 (3) fails to satisfy the requirements after making the best possible
13 effort to do so as determined by the state board; or

14 (4) is unable to satisfy the requirements due to disability or death of
15 the recipient.

16 Sec. 4. The state board shall implement and administer the Kansas
17 promise scholarship program. The state board shall:

18 (a) Identify the promise eligible programs offered by each eligible
19 institution that provide a two-year associate degree program or a career
20 and technical education certificate or stand-alone program in any of the
21 following fields of study:

22 (1) Information technology and security;

23 (2) mental and physical healthcare; or

24 (3) advanced manufacturing and building trades;

25 (b) work with public and private secondary schools and community
26 partners, such as community foundations and business, industry and
27 economic development organizations to publicize Kansas promise
28 scholarships, including, but not limited to, publicizing promise eligible
29 programs, eligible institutions and application procedures and deadlines;

30 (c) subject to appropriations therefor, distribute funds to eligible
31 institutions for the purpose of awarding Kansas promise scholarships;

32 (d) ensure that each scholarship recipient fulfills the requirements of
33 the scholarship agreement entered into pursuant to section 3, and
34 amendments thereto;

35 (e) on or before March 1, 2022, adopt rules and regulations for the
36 implementation and administration of the Kansas promise scholarship
37 program; and

38 (f) on or before January 15, 2022, and each January 15 thereafter,
39 prepare and submit a report to the legislature and the governor on the
40 Kansas promise scholarship program. The report shall include, but not be
41 limited to, the following information for the immediately preceding
42 academic year:

43 (1) The total number of scholarship applications;

1 (2) the total number of scholarship recipients and the total amount of
2 scholarship moneys awarded;

3 (3) the total number of scholarship recipients who completed an
4 eligible postsecondary education program; and

5 (4) the total number of scholarship recipients who satisfied the
6 requirements of a scholarship agreement.

7 Sec. 5. (a) If any scholarship recipient fails to satisfy the requirements
8 of a scholarship agreement, such recipient shall pay to the state board an
9 amount equal to the total scholarship amount received by such recipient
10 plus accrued interest at a rate equivalent to the interest rate applicable to
11 loans made under the federal PLUS program at the time such recipient first
12 received a scholarship. All moneys received by the state board pursuant to
13 this section shall be remitted to the state treasurer in accordance with the
14 provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of
15 each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in
16 the state treasury to the credit of the Kansas promise scholarship program
17 fund created pursuant to section 6, and amendments thereto.

18 (b) To collect upon any repayment account arising under the Kansas
19 promise scholarship program, the state board may submit any repayment
20 account over to a designated loan servicer or collection agency or may
21 utilize the collection procedures provided in K.S.A. 75-6201 et seq., and
22 amendments thereto.

23 New Sec. 6. There is hereby created in the state treasury the Kansas
24 promise scholarship program fund, which shall be administered by the
25 state board. All expenditures from the Kansas promise scholarship
26 program fund shall be for scholarships awarded pursuant to the Kansas
27 promise scholarship program. All expenditures from the Kansas promise
28 scholarship program fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation
29 acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant
30 to vouchers approved by the executive officer of the state board or the
31 designee of the executive officer. All moneys received by the board for the
32 Kansas promise scholarship program shall be deposited in the state
33 treasury in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and
34 amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state
35 treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit
36 of the Kansas promise scholarship program fund.

37 Sec. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
38 publication in the statute book.