



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

House Committee on Education Proponent Testimony on HB 2132

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Good afternoon, Chairman Thomas and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 2132.

The Promise Scholarship Act was originally enacted by the 2021 Legislature and was amended in 2022. This year's legislation on the program is quite focused in making only two additional amendments to the Act.

First, the bill would add transportation to the existing optional distribution and logistics field of study, thus making transportation programs (such as Commercial Truck Driving) eligible for students to receive a Promise Scholarship award. In addition, the bill expands the early childhood education and development field of study description to include elementary education and secondary education. Which programs are eligible is a policy decision of the Legislature to make. Our agency will administer the Act in partnership with the institutions to award scholarships in those programs the Legislature includes in the Act.

Second, the bill clarifies the Promise Scholarship award calculations for students in eligible programs at the private institutions of higher education. We agree with the private institutions that this amendment is an important change for the Act. In this section of the bill, we ask that you consider some technical amendments in order to ensure that the language referencing how to calculate an award is structured in a consistent manner for students attending public and private institutions to avoid confusion in administering the Act.

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On page five, beginning on line 17:

“paragraph shall not exceed the average cost of tuition, **mandatory required** fees and the cost of books and **required** materials for such promise eligible program when offered by...”

and on page five, beginning on line 14:

“fees and the cost of books and materials for such program **for the academic year in which the student is enrolled and receiving the scholarship** shall be minus the aggregate amount of all other aid awarded to such student for such academic year,”

These changes would make the terminology for award calculations consistent across all institutions.

Also on page five, we believe there is an error in not striking the word “is” on line ten.

Finally, to avoid confusion and for adequate time to implement changes to eligible programs, we ask that the amendments in HB 2132 be made effective at the start of an academic year, rather than mid-year. We therefore ask that the effective date of the bill be upon publication in the statute book. Making field of study changes mid-year has been particularly troublesome for our students and the institutions.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.