

SENATE BILL No. 47

By Committee on Assessment and Taxation

1-24

1 AN ACT concerning education; relating to the state board of education;
2 creating the student opportunity scholarship program.

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

5 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the student opportunity
6 scholarship program, which shall be administered by the state board of
7 education. On and after July 1, 2020, a student will be eligible to receive a
8 student opportunity scholarship if such student:

9 (1) Attended an accredited Kansas public high school for at least
10 three consecutive years;

11 (2) graduated from an accredited Kansas public high school prior to
12 September 20 of the school year in which such student would have been
13 enrolled in grade 12; and

14 (3) is enrolled in or plans to attend within one year, a postsecondary
15 educational institution in Kansas.

16 (b) To receive a student opportunity scholarship, an eligible student
17 shall provide the state board:

18 (1) Proof of enrollment in a postsecondary educational institution
19 within one year of graduation from high school; and

20 (2) any other information deemed necessary by the state board.

21 (c) The state board shall determine the number of students who
22 qualify to receive a student opportunity scholarship each year. The state
23 board shall certify to the director of accounts and reports the total amount
24 of moneys required for student opportunity scholarships. Upon receipt of
25 such certification, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer the
26 amount certified to the student opportunity scholarship fund.

27 (d) There is hereby established in the state treasury the student
28 opportunity scholarship fund, which shall be administered by the state
29 board of education. All expenditures from the student opportunity
30 scholarship fund shall be for student opportunity scholarships and the
31 administration of the student opportunity scholarship program. All
32 expenditures from the student opportunity scholarship fund shall be made
33 in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of
34 accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the state
35 board or its designee. All moneys received for the purposes of this section
36 shall be deposited in the state treasury in accordance with the provisions of

1 K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto, and shall be credited to the
2 student opportunity scholarship fund.

3 (e) The state board shall provide a student opportunity scholarship for
4 any student who meets the requirements of subsections (a) and (b). A
5 student opportunity scholarship shall be paid directly to the postsecondary
6 educational institution that the eligible student attends for each semester of
7 attendance. If the annual cost of the student's tuition at such postsecondary
8 educational institution is less than the scholarship amount, the remaining
9 money shall remain in the student opportunity scholarship fund and the
10 state board shall continue to pay tuition to the postsecondary educational
11 institution for each semester that the student attends such postsecondary
12 educational institution until the scholarship amount has been fully
13 expended.

14 (f) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (3), the amount of the
15 scholarship shall be equal to 95% of the amount of BASE aid for the
16 school year the student would have been enrolled in grade 12.

17 (2) The school district from which the student graduated shall receive
18 an amount equal to 5% of BASE aid for the school year the student would
19 have been enrolled in grade 12 and shall deposit such moneys in the
20 general fund of the school district.

21 (3) The state board may retain up to 2% of the amount of scholarships
22 for the cost of administering the student opportunity scholarship program.

23 (g) The state board shall adopt rules and regulations to carry out the
24 provisions of this section by July 1, 2020.

25 (h) As used in this section:

26 (1) "BASE aid" means the amount of base aid for student excellence
27 set forth in K.S.A. 72-5132, and amendments thereto.

28 (2) "Postsecondary educational institution" means any state
29 educational institution, municipal university, community college, technical
30 college or institute of technology located in Kansas or any private
31 postsecondary educational institution that operates on a not-for-profit
32 basis, has a physical presence within the state of Kansas, is regionally
33 accredited by the higher learning commission and is exempt from the
34 provisions of K.S.A. 74-32,162 et seq., and amendments thereto.

35 (3) "School district" means any public school district organized and
36 operating under the laws of this state.

37 (4) "State board" means the state board of education.

38 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
39 publication in the statute book.