

HOUSE BILL No. 2021

AN ACT concerning public safety officers, military personnel, prisoners of war and veterans; expanding educational benefits for spouses and dependents of such officers and personnel who are injured while performing service-related duties; authorizing the issuance of certain bonds; relating to the construction of a state veterans home; providing for the powers, duties and functions of the Kansas development finance authority, the department of administration and the state finance council pertaining to such bonds; amending K.S.A. 75-4364 and repealing the existing section.

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

New Section 1. (a) For the purpose of financing a capital improvement project relating to construction of a state veterans home facility located in northeast Kansas, including, but not limited to, Douglas, Jefferson, Leavenworth, Shawnee and Wyandotte counties, the Kansas development finance authority is hereby authorized to issue one or more series of revenue bonds pursuant to the Kansas development finance authority act, K.S.A. 74-8901 et seq., and amendments thereto, in a total amount not to exceed \$10,500,000, plus all amounts required for costs of bond issuance, costs of insurance or credit enhancement, costs of interest on the bonds issued for such capital improvement project during the construction of such project and any required reserves for the payment of principal and interest on the bonds.

(b) The proceeds from the sale of any bonds, other than refunding bonds, issued pursuant to this section, after payment of any costs related to the issuance of such bonds, shall be paid by the Kansas development finance authority to the department of administration to be applied to the payment of costs of the capital improvement project authorized pursuant to this section as requested by the secretary of administration and by resolution of the Kansas development finance authority and shall constitute the state's required 35% match for the United States department of veterans affairs state veterans home construction grant program under 38 U.S.C. §§ 8131 through 8138, as in effect on July 1, 2021.

(c) On and after July 1, 2021, prior to the issuance of any bonds pursuant to this section, the capital improvement project described in subsection (a) is hereby approved for the department of administration for the purposes of K.S.A. 74-8905(b), and amendments thereto, and the authorization of the issuance of bonds by the Kansas development finance authority shall be approved by the Kansas development finance authority in accordance with K.S.A. 74-8901 et seq., amendments thereto, and the state finance council acting on this matter, which is hereby characterized as a matter of legislative delegation and subject to the guidelines prescribed in K.S.A. 75-3711c(c), and amendments thereto, except that such approval also may be given when the legislature is in session.

(d) The department of administration shall only make expenditures from the moneys received from the issuance of any bonds pursuant to this section for those purposes set forth in subsection (a) for such capital improvement project.

(e) The debt service for any such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be financed by appropriations from the state general fund or any appropriate special revenue fund or funds.

(f) The date of maturity on bonds issued pursuant to this section shall not be fixed for a period of time that exceeds 20 years from the date of issuance.

(g) The state hereby pledges and covenants with the holders of any bonds issued pursuant to the provisions of this section, that the state will not limit or alter the rights or powers vested in the Kansas development finance authority by this section, nor limit or alter the rights or powers of the authority, or the department of administration, in any matter that would jeopardize the interest of the holders, or any trustee of such holders, or inhibit or prevent performance or fulfillment by the Kansas development finance authority or the department of administration with respect to the terms of any agreement made with the holders of the bonds or agreements made pursuant to this section,

except that the failure of the legislature to appropriate moneys for debt service on any bonds issued pursuant to this section shall not be deemed a violation of this pledge and covenant. The department of administration is hereby specifically authorized to include this pledge and covenant in any agreement with the Kansas development finance authority. The Kansas development finance authority is hereby specifically authorized to include this pledge and covenant in any bond resolution, trust indenture or agreement for the benefit of the holders of the bonds.

(h) Neither the state nor the department of administration shall have the power to pledge the full faith and credit or taxing power of the state for debt service on any bonds issued pursuant to this section, and any payment by the department of administration for such purpose shall be subject to and dependent on appropriations by the legislature. Any obligation of the state or the department of administration for payment of debt service on bonds issued pursuant to this section shall not be considered a debt or obligation of the state for the purpose of section 6 of article 11 of the constitution of the state of Kansas.

(i) Subject to the provisions of appropriation acts, the secretary of administration shall enter into pledge agreements with the Kansas development finance authority to pledge moneys for the payment of bonds issued pursuant to this section, which pledge shall be subject to the appropriation of moneys therefor.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 75-4364 is hereby amended to read as follows: 75-4364. (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Dependent" means: (A) A birth child, adopted child or stepchild; or (B) any child other than the foregoing who is actually dependent in whole or in part on the individual and who is related to such individual by marriage or consanguinity.

(2) "Emergency medical service provider" means the same as defined in K.S.A. 65-6112, and amendments thereto.

(3) "Firefighter" means a person who is: (A) Employed by any city, county, township or other political subdivision of the state and who is assigned to the fire department thereof and engaged in the fighting and extinguishment of fires and the protection of life and property therefrom; or (B) a volunteer member of a fire district, fire department or fire company.

(4) "Kansas educational institution" means and includes community colleges, the municipal university, state educational institutions, the institute of technology at Washburn university and technical colleges.

(5) "Law enforcement officer" means a person who by virtue of office or public employment is vested by law with a duty to maintain public order or to make arrests for violation of the laws of the state of Kansas or ordinances of any municipality thereof or with a duty to maintain or assert custody or supervision over persons accused or convicted of crime, and includes wardens, superintendents, directors, security personnel, officers and employees of adult and juvenile correctional institutions, jails or other institutions or facilities for the detention of persons accused or convicted of crime, while acting within the scope of their authority.

(6) "Military service" means any active service in any armed service of the United States and any active state or federal service in the Kansas army or air national guard.

(7) "Prisoner of war" means any person who was a resident of Kansas at the time the person entered service of the United States armed forces and who, while serving in the United States armed forces, has been declared to be a prisoner of war, as established by the United States secretary of defense, after January 1, 1960.

(8) "Public safety officer" means a law enforcement officer ~~or~~, a firefighter ~~or~~, an emergency medical service provider *or a public safety employee*.

(9) "Resident of Kansas" means a person who is a domiciliary resident as defined by K.S.A. 76-729, and amendments thereto.

(10) "Spouse" means the spouse of a deceased public safety officer or deceased member of the military service who has not remarried.

(11) "State board" means the state board of regents.

(12) "*Public safety employee*" means any employee of a law enforcement office, sheriff's department, municipal fire department, volunteer and non-volunteer fire protection association, emergency medical services provider or correctional institution of the department of corrections.

(b) (1) Every Kansas educational institution shall provide for enrollment without charge of tuition or fees for:

~~(A)~~ Any eligible dependent or spouse of a public safety officer who:

(i) Was injured or disabled while performing duties as a public safety officer; or

(ii) died as the result of injury sustained while performing duties as a public safety officer ~~so long as such dependent or spouse is eligible;~~

~~(B)~~ any dependent or spouse of any resident of Kansas who:

(i) Died or was injured or disabled on or after September 11, 2001, while, and as a result of, serving in military service; or

(ii) is entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability of at least 80% because of a public statute administered by the department of veterans affairs or a military department as a result of injuries or accidents sustained in combat after September 11, 2001; and

~~(C)~~ any prisoner of war.

(2) Any such dependent or spouse and any prisoner of war shall be eligible for enrollment at a Kansas educational institution without charge of tuition or fees for not to exceed 10 semesters of undergraduate instruction, or the equivalent thereof, at all such institutions.

(c) Subject to appropriations therefor, any Kansas educational institution, at which enrollment, without charge of tuition or fees, of a prisoner of war or a dependent or spouse is provided for under subsection (b), may file a claim with the state board for reimbursement of the amount of such tuition and fees. *In any fiscal year, such reimbursement shall not exceed a total of \$350,000.* The state board shall include in its budget estimates pursuant to K.S.A. 75-3717, and amendments thereto, a request for appropriations to cover tuition and fee claims pursuant to this section. The state board shall be responsible for payment of reimbursements to Kansas educational institutions upon certification by each such institution of the amount of reimbursement to which entitled. Payments to Kansas educational institutions shall be made upon vouchers approved by the state board and upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports. Payments may be made by issuance of a single warrant to each Kansas educational institution at which one or more eligible dependents or spouses or prisoners of war are enrolled for the total amount of tuition and fees not charged for enrollment at that institution. The director of accounts and reports shall cause such warrant to be delivered to the Kansas educational institution at which any such eligible dependents or spouses or prisoners of war are enrolled. If an eligible dependent or spouse or prisoner of war discontinues attendance before the end of any semester, after the Kansas educational institution has received payment under this subsection, the institution shall pay to the state the entire amount that such eligible dependent or spouse or prisoner of war would otherwise qualify to have refunded, not to exceed the amount of the payment made by the state in behalf of such dependent or spouse or prisoner of war for the semester. All amounts paid to the state by Kansas educational institutions under this subsection shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the state general fund.

(d) The state board shall adopt rules and regulations for administration of the provisions of this section and shall determine the qualification of persons as dependents and spouses of public safety

officers or United States military personnel and the eligibility of such persons for the benefits provided for under this section.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 75-4364 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

HOUSE adopted
Conference Committee Report _____

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

Passed the SENATE
as amended _____

SENATE adopted
Conference Committee Report _____

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.

APPROVED _____

Governor.