

## HOUSE BILL No. 2515

By Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

1-28

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

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

5 Section 1. (a) The provisions of section 1 et seq., and amendments  
6 thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the Kansas promise  
7 scholarship act.

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

9 (1) "Eligible postsecondary educational institution" means:

10 (A) Any community college established pursuant to chapter 71 of the  
11 Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto; or

12 (B) a technical college established under the laws of this state.

13 Sec. 2. (a) There is hereby established the Kansas promise  
14 scholarship program. The state board of regents shall administer the  
15 program.

16 (b) On or before March 1, 2021, the state board of regents shall adopt  
17 rules and regulations to implement and administer the Kansas promise  
18 scholarship program. Such rules and regulations shall establish:

19 (1) Scholarship application deadlines;

20 (2) appeal procedures for denial or revocation of a Kansas promise  
21 scholarship;

22 (3) guidelines to ensure as much as is practicable that, if a student  
23 who received a Kansas promise scholarship graduates from a technical  
24 education certificate program or associate degree program pursuant to this  
25 act and subsequently enrolls in a state educational institution, as defined in  
26 K.S.A. 76-711, and amendments thereto, any courses taken by such  
27 student shall be transferred to the state educational institution and qualify  
28 toward the student's baccalaureate degree;

29 (4) procedures for a student who receives a Kansas promise  
30 scholarship to record and report proof of community service and  
31 community service hours;

32 (5) the terms, conditions and requirements that shall be incorporated  
33 into each Kansas promise scholarship agreement;

34 (6) procedures for requesting and approving medical, military and  
35 personal absences from an eligible postsecondary educational institution  
36 while receiving a Kansas promise scholarship;

1 (7) criteria for determining whether any student who received a  
2 Kansas promise scholarship fulfilled the employment and repayment  
3 requirements included in a Kansas promise scholarship agreement as  
4 provided in section 5, and amendments thereto; and

5 (8) criteria for determining when a student who received a Kansas  
6 promise scholarship may be released from the requirements of a Kansas  
7 promise scholarship, if there are special circumstances that caused such  
8 student to be unable to complete such requirements.

9 (c) The state board of regents shall:

10 (1) Publicize Kansas promise scholarships, including, but not limited  
11 to, publicizing eligible postsecondary educational institutions, approved  
12 scholarship-eligible educational programs, application procedures and  
13 application deadlines;

14 (2) allocate funds to each eligible postsecondary educational  
15 institution for the purpose of awarding Kansas promise scholarships;

16 (3) request information from eligible postsecondary educational  
17 institutions necessary for the administration of this act;

18 (4) annually collaborate with the department of commerce and  
19 Kansas business and industry to identify up to 10 job fields that currently  
20 have the highest need for skilled employees;

21 (5) designate scholarship-eligible education programs that correspond  
22 to the job fields identified in paragraph (4);

23 (6) ensure that any student who received a Kansas promise  
24 scholarship fulfills the employment or repayment requirements provided in  
25 section 5, and amendments thereto; and

26 (7) beginning January 2021, annually evaluate the Kansas promise  
27 scholarship program and prepare and submit a report to the senate standing  
28 committee on education and the house of representatives standing  
29 committee on education.

30 Sec. 3. Subject to appropriations, the amount of a Kansas promise  
31 scholarship for a student for each semester shall be the aggregate amount  
32 of tuition, required fees and the cost of books and required materials for  
33 the educational program at the eligible postsecondary educational  
34 institution for the academic year in which the student is enrolled and  
35 receiving the scholarship minus the aggregate amount of all other aid  
36 awarded to such student for such semester.

37 Sec. 4. (a) To be eligible for a Kansas promise scholarship, a student  
38 shall:

39 (1) Be a Kansas resident;

40 (2) be a graduate of a Kansas public or private secondary school or  
41 have obtained a high school equivalency certificate;

42 (3) complete the required scholarship application on such forms and  
43 in such manner as established by the state board of regents;

1 (4) enter into a Kansas promise scholarship agreement pursuant to  
2 section 5, and amendments thereto;

3 (5) complete the free application for federal student aid for the  
4 academic year in which the student applies to receive a Kansas promise  
5 scholarship; and

6 (6) enroll in an eligible postsecondary educational institution in a  
7 scholarship-eligible technical education program or associate degree  
8 program.

9 (b) To continue to receive a Kansas promise scholarship, a student  
10 shall:

11 (1) Annually complete 100 hours of community service or be  
12 employed and work a minimum of 15 hours per week throughout the time  
13 period in which the student is receiving a Kansas promise scholarship;

14 (2) maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0; and

15 (3) satisfy any other requirements of a Kansas promise scholarship  
16 agreement as provided in section 5, and amendments thereto.

17 (c) Nothing in this act shall prohibit a student who received  
18 postsecondary course credit while enrolled in high school from qualifying  
19 for a Kansas promise scholarship.

20 Sec. 5. (a) As a condition to receiving a Kansas promise scholarship,  
21 an eligible student shall enter into a Kansas promise scholarship agreement  
22 with the eligible postsecondary educational institution making the  
23 scholarship award to such student. Such agreement shall require such  
24 student who receives a Kansas promise scholarship to:

25 (1) Engage as a full-time student in and complete the required  
26 technical education certificate program or associate degree program of the  
27 eligible postsecondary educational institution for which the student is  
28 receiving the scholarship;

29 (2) within six months after graduation from the technical education  
30 certificate program or associate degree program:

31 (A) Commence work in the state of Kansas for at least two  
32 consecutive years following completion of such program; or

33 (B) enroll as a full-time student in any public or private  
34 postsecondary educational institution with its primary location in Kansas;

35 (3) maintain records and make reports to the state board of regents on  
36 such forms and in such manner as required by the state board of regents to  
37 document the satisfaction of the requirements of this act; and

38 (4) upon failure to satisfy the requirements of a Kansas promise  
39 scholarship agreement, repay the amount of the Kansas promise  
40 scholarship the student received under the program as provided in  
41 subsection (b).

42 (b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (c), if any student who  
43 receives a Kansas promise scholarship fails to satisfy the requirements of a

1 Kansas promise scholarship agreement entered into pursuant to this  
2 section, such student shall pay an amount equal to the total amount of  
3 money received by such student pursuant to such agreement that is  
4 financed by the state of Kansas plus accrued interest at a rate equivalent to  
5 the interest rate applicable to loans made under the federal PLUS program  
6 at the time such person first entered into an agreement. Installment  
7 payments of such amounts may be made in accordance with rules and  
8 regulations of the state board of regents. Such installment payments shall  
9 begin six months after the date of the action or circumstances that cause  
10 such student to fail to satisfy the requirements of a Kansas promise  
11 scholarship agreement, as determined by the state board of regents upon  
12 the circumstances of each individual case. All moneys received pursuant to  
13 this subsection shall be remitted to the state treasurer in accordance with  
14 the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt  
15 of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount  
16 in the state treasury to the credit of the state general fund.

17 (2) The state board of regents is authorized to turn any repayment  
18 account arising under this act to a designated loan servicer or collection  
19 agency, the state not being involved other than to receive payments from  
20 the loan servicer or collection agency at the interest rate prescribed under  
21 this subsection.

22 (c) Any requirement under a Kansas promise scholarship agreement  
23 entered into pursuant to this section may be postponed for good cause in  
24 accordance with rules and regulations of the state board of regents.

25 (d) A student who received a Kansas promise scholarship and entered  
26 into a Kansas promise scholarship agreement satisfies the requirements  
27 under such agreement when such student:

28 (1) Completes the requirements in accordance with such agreement;

29 (2) fails to satisfy the requirements for completion of the educational  
30 requirements after making the best effort possible to do so;

31 (3) is unable to obtain employment and continue in such employment  
32 after making the best effort possible to do so;

33 (4) is unable to satisfy the requirements due to permanent physical  
34 disability; or

35 (5) dies.

36 Sec. 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
37 publication in the statute book.