

January 29, 2024

The Honorable Adam Thomas, Chairperson  
House Committee on Education  
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 218-N  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Thomas:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for HB 2567 by Representative Turk, et al.

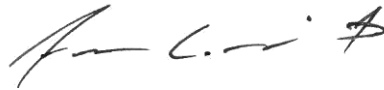
In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2567 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2567 would establish the Kansas National Guard Educational Master's for Enhanced Readiness and Global Excellence (EMERGE) Program. The purpose would be to provide state assistance through reimbursement of tuition and fees for eligible members of the Kansas National Guard pursuing master's degree programs at Kansas educational institutions. The Program would be subject to annual appropriations and the availability of funds. Each July 1, the Adjutant General would select up to 100 eligible National Guard members and the number of eligible guard members in the Program would not exceed 200 guard members in any one school year. The bill would require the Board of Regents to adopt rules and regulations, administer the program, coordinate with the Adjutant General on awards, make payments for the awards, confirm eligibility, and collect repayment when requirements are not met. The bill details who would be eligible, how much an individual could be reimbursed, and what would occur if an individual failed to satisfy the agreement of the Program. The bill would also create the Kansas National Guard EMERGE Program Repayment Fund within the Board of Regents.

According to the Board of Regents, given that the new Program is very similar to the current Kansas National Guard tuition reimbursement program, including the involvement of the Adjutant General in the process, any additional staff time to administer the new Program could be absorbed within its current resources. However, the Board would need an increase in its appropriation to finance the tuition payments. Using the academic year 2024, tuition and fees as published on the Board's website, it is estimated that it would cost \$1,112,250 for 100 Kansas resident students' tuition and fees in FY 2025 and up to \$2,224,500 for 200 students in FY 2026.

The Adjutant General's Department states that the bill would not have a fiscal effect on the agency's state budget. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2567 is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam C. Proffitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct flourish at the end.

Adam C. Proffitt  
Director of the Budget

cc: Michael Neth, Office of the Adjutant General  
Becky Pottebaum, Board of Regents