

University Engineering Initiative Act

House Sub. for Sub. for SB 127 creates the University Engineering Initiative Act. The Act is intended to increase the number of engineering graduates to 1,365 graduates per year by 2021. The Act directs the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Board of Regents, Kansas State University, Wichita State University, the University of Kansas, and private industry to develop a plan to ensure engineering industry partners find the new talent, designs, and techniques needed to fuel economic growth and business success in Kansas. The Act authorizes the acquisition, construction, and equipping of engineering facilities on state-owned property of the Board of Regents or any of the three universities, and requires the universities to submit to the Secretary of Commerce and the Board of Regents a plan to provide for the annual maintenance and operation costs of any newly constructed engineering facility or existing facility when seeking funds for construction or improvement of the facility.

The Act creates three new funds in the State Treasury: Kan-Grow Engineering Fund-WSU, Kan-Grow Engineering Fund-KSU, and Kan-Grow Engineering Fund-KU. On July 1, 2012, through July 1, 2021, the first \$10.5 million credited to the Expanded Lottery Act Revenues Fund is to be transferred equally to each of the three newly created funds. The funding shall be matched by the universities on a \$1 for \$1 basis from non-state sources.

The Act also amends the enacting statute for the Expanded Lottery Act Revenues Fund to expand its uses to include the University Engineering Initiative Act.

Finally, the Act requires the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a review of the universities' plans to meet the goals established by the Act on or before the first day of the 2018 regular session.