

May 19, 2015

The Honorable Ronald Highland, Chairperson
House Committee on Education
Statehouse, Room 561-W
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Highland:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2318 by Representatives Claeys and Whipple

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2318 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2318 would encourage Western Governors University, which is a regionally and nationally accredited nonprofit and independent university, to establish Western Governors University – Kansas to offer online, competency-based degrees and provide enhanced access to postsecondary education to students. Western Governors University – Kansas would be a self-supporting institution and would not receive state funding.

The Board of Regents and the Kansas Postsecondary Education Advisory Commission would be required to recognize, endorse and work to support online, competency-based education of high quality as an important component of the Kansas higher education system; work to eliminate unnecessary barriers to the delivery of online competency-based education by Western Governors University – Kansas; and work with Western Governors University – Kansas to integrate its academic programs and services into Kansas higher education policy and strategy. The Board of Regents would be required to work with Western Governors University – Kansas to create data-sharing processes to assess the performance of the university.

According to the Board of Regents, it is estimated that the bill would have a fiscal effect on the agency, but the precise effect is difficult to determine.

Sincerely,



Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Kelly Oliver, Board of Regents