AN ACT concerning education; relating to the state board of education; creating the student opportunity scholarship program.

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

Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the student opportunity scholarship program, which shall be administered by the state board of education. On and after July 1, 2020, a student will be eligible to receive a student opportunity scholarship if such student:

(1) Attended an accredited Kansas public high school for at least three consecutive years;

(2) graduated from an accredited Kansas public high school prior to September 20 of the school year in which such student would have been enrolled in grade 12; and

(3) is enrolled in or plans to attend within one year, a postsecondary educational institution in Kansas.

(b) To receive a student opportunity scholarship, an eligible student shall provide the state board:

(1) Proof of enrollment in a postsecondary educational institution within one year of graduation from high school; and

(2) any other information deemed necessary by the state board.

(c) The state board shall determine the number of students who qualify to receive a student opportunity scholarship each year. The state board shall certify to the director of accounts and reports the total amount of moneys required for student opportunity scholarships. Upon receipt of such certification, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer the amount certified to the student opportunity scholarship fund.

(d) There is hereby established in the state treasury the student opportunity scholarship fund, which shall be administered by the state board of education. All expenditures from the student opportunity scholarship fund shall be for student opportunity scholarships and the administration of the student opportunity scholarship program. All expenditures from the student opportunity scholarship fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the state board or its designee. All moneys received for the purposes of this section shall be deposited in the state treasury in accordance with the provisions of
SB 47

K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto, and shall be credited to the student opportunity scholarship fund.

(e) The state board shall provide a student opportunity scholarship for any student who meets the requirements of subsections (a) and (b). A student opportunity scholarship shall be paid directly to the postsecondary educational institution that the eligible student attends for each semester of attendance. If the annual cost of the student's tuition at such postsecondary educational institution is less than the scholarship amount, the remaining money shall remain in the student opportunity scholarship fund and the state board shall continue to pay tuition to the postsecondary educational institution for each semester that the student attends such postsecondary educational institution until the scholarship amount has been fully expended.

(f) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (3), the amount of the scholarship shall be equal to 95% of the amount of BASE aid for the school year the student would have been enrolled in grade 12.

(2) The school district from which the student graduated shall receive an amount equal to 5% of BASE aid for the school year the student would have been enrolled in grade 12 and shall deposit such moneys in the general fund of the school district.

(3) The state board may retain up to 2% of the amount of scholarships for the cost of administering the student opportunity scholarship program.

(g) The state board shall adopt rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this section by July 1, 2020.

(h) As used in this section:

(1) "BASE aid" means the amount of base aid for student excellence set forth in K.S.A. 72-5132, and amendments thereto.

(2) "Postsecondary educational institution" means any state educational institution, municipal university, community college, technical college or institute of technology located in Kansas or any private postsecondary educational institution that operates on a not-for-profit basis, has a physical presence within the state of Kansas, is regionally accredited by the higher learning commission and is exempt from the provisions of K.S.A. 74-32,162 et seq., and amendments thereto.

(3) "School district" means any public school district organized and operating under the laws of this state.

(4) "State board" means the state board of education.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.