

January 27, 2021

The Honorable Troy Waymaster, Chairperson
House Committee on Appropriations
Statehouse, Room 111-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Waymaster:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2094 by House Committee on Appropriations

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2094 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2094 would create the Wartime Veteran and First Responder Survivors' Grant Program to be administered by the Kansas Board of Regents. The Board, in consultation with the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office, would be required to adopt rules and regulations to implement and administer the program as outlined in the bill on or before March 1, 2022. A grant awarded under the program would provide a survivor payment for tuition, fees and books for an academic year at a Kansas public postsecondary educational institution. The total number of grants awarded in one academic year would be limited to no more than 30. The bill would establish eligibility requirements for the survivor, the qualifying first responder, and the qualifying wartime veteran for events occurring after September 11, 2001.

Under the bill, a survivor would mean (1) a natural, adopted or stepchild of a qualifying wartime veteran or qualifying first responder, who is less than 25 years of age and was a dependent of a veteran or first responder at the time of death or injury or within five years after the injury; or (2) the spouse of a qualifying wartime veteran or qualifying first responder, who was married to a veteran or first responder at the time of the death or injury or within five years after the injury. The bill would establish the Wartime Veteran and First Responder Survivors' Grant Fund in the State Treasury. The scholarship program would be subject to appropriations and any unencumbered balance in the fund in excess of \$350,000 on June 30 of each year would be transferred to the State General Fund upon certification by the Director of Accounts and Reports to the Director of the Budget and the Director of Legislative Research.

The Board of Regents indicates that KSA 75-4364 currently provides educational benefits, including the tuition and fee costs, for spouses and dependents of deceased public safety officers, certain deceased military personnel, and prisoners of war, which is almost identical to the provisions proposed in HB 2094. The Board indicates students qualifying for grants under KSA 75-4364 would also qualify for a grant under the Wartime Veteran and First Responder Survivors' Grant Program. The Board indicates that enrollments under KSA 75-4364 include approximately 70.0 percent at public universities and 30.0 percent at mostly community colleges.

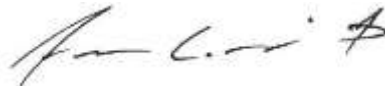
Based on this historical trend, the Board estimates HB 2094 would increase annual expenditures from the State General Fund by \$232,350 beginning in FY 2022 for 30 students' tuition, required fees and books, including \$192,570 ((\$6,840 tuition + \$1,330 fees + \$1,000 books) x 30 grants x 70.0 percent) for students at public universities and \$39,780 ((\$2,070 tuition + \$1,350 fees + \$1,000 books) x 30 grants x 30.0 percent) for students at community colleges and technical colleges. The average annual cost of tuition, required fees and books for full-time students are listed in the table below.

Average Annual Cost for Full-Time Students

| | <u>Resident Tuition</u> | <u>Required Fees</u> | <u>Books</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Public Universities | \$6,840 | \$1,330 | \$1,000 |
| Community Colleges | \$2,070 | \$1,350 | \$1,000 |
| Technical Colleges | \$3,600 | \$1,320 | \$1,000 |

The Division of the Budget notes that any additional State General Fund expenditures resulting from HB 2094 would need to be appropriated by the Legislature, as the bill does not contain appropriations for the program. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2094 is not reflected in *The FY 2022 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Adam Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Luke Drury, Veterans Affairs
Kelly Oliver, Board of Regents