

HOUSE BILL No. 2312

By Representative Hodge

2-13

1 AN ACT concerning postsecondary education; relating to the secretary of
2 commerce; establishing the rural revitalization student loan repayment
3 program.

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

6 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the rural revitalization
7 student loan repayment program to be administered by the secretary of
8 commerce. The program shall provide for the repayment of student loans
9 for eligible individuals that establish domicile in a rural county. An eligible
10 individual may enroll in the program in a form and manner prescribed by
11 the secretary. Once enrolled, such eligible individual shall be entitled to
12 continued participation in the program for 20 years, except that if the
13 eligible individual relocates outside of a rural county, such individual
14 forfeits such individual's eligibility to participate.

15 (b) The provisions of this act shall be subject to appropriation acts.
16 Nothing in this act guarantees an eligible individual a right to the benefits
17 provided by this section. If the amount of appropriations for the program is
18 insufficient to pay in full the amount of student loans of eligible
19 individuals in any year, the secretary shall prorate the amount appropriated
20 among all eligible individuals.

21 (c) The secretary shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to
22 administer the provisions of this section.

23 (d) As used in the rural revitalization student loan repayment
24 program:

25 (1) "Eligible individual" means any person that:

26 (A) Attended an institution of higher education and earned an
27 associate, bachelor or post-graduate degree;

28 (B) is currently repaying student loans for attendance at such
29 institution; and

30 (C) has established domicile in a rural county.

31 (2) "Institution of higher education" means the same as such term is
32 defined in K.S.A. 74-50,222, and amendment thereto.

33 (3) "Rural county" means any county of this state other than Douglas,
34 Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee and Wyandotte counties.

35 (4) (A) "Student loan" means any federal education loan or other loan
36 primarily used to finance educational expenses for attendance at an

1 institution of higher education, including, but not limited to, loans used to
2 finance tuition, fees, books, supplies, room and board and transportation.

3 (B) The term "student loan" shall not include: (i) Any extension of
4 credit under an open-ended consumer credit plan, a reverse mortgage
5 transaction, a residential mortgage transaction or any other loan that is
6 secured by real or personal property; or (ii) an extension of credit made by
7 a postsecondary educational institution, if the term of such extension of
8 credit is not longer than a person's educational program.

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