

FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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The Free Conference Committee on **HB 619** has met as provided in the Rules of the House and Senate and hereby reports the following to be adopted:

_____ GA X SCS _____ HCS

For the above-referenced bill, with these amendments (if applicable):

Committee (list by chamber and number): _____;

Floor (list by chamber and number): _____; and

The following Free Conference Committee action:

On page 8, delete lines 24 to 26 in their entirety and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"2. At least one (1) but no more than three (3) appointed members of the board shall reside in any one (1) judicial district of the Kentucky Supreme Court as of the date of the appointment."; and

On page 14, line 1, delete "**Notwithstanding the recommendation of the president of the system, the**" and replace with "**The**"; and

On page 19, line 22 to page 20, line 18, delete in their entirety and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"➔Section 6. KRS 164.583 is amended to read as follows:

(1) Each ~~community~~ college ~~in~~~~of~~ the Kentucky Community and Technical College System may offer, within the two (2) year academic curriculum of the college, any and all lower division academic courses offered for undergraduate credit at any and all of the four (4) year public colleges and universities.

(2) All lower division academic courses offered by the **KCTCS**~~community colleges~~ shall be transferable for academic credit to any and all four (4) year public colleges and universities, regardless of the number of academic credits earned by any student at one (1)

1 or more KCTCS colleges~~[community college]~~.

2 (3) ~~[Nothing in]~~This section shall **not** be construed or interpreted to change, reduce, or
3 otherwise affect the required distribution between lower division and upper division
4 courses now required for matriculation in an undergraduate program at any institution of
5 higher education.

6 **(4) (a) If the KCTCS seeks to offer a new accredited program which will require dedicated**
7 **general fund appropriations for capital or operating expenses beyond the system's**
8 **regular appropriations, the president shall submit a proposal to the board of**
9 **regents of KCTCS for review and approval. The board's review shall include but**
10 **not be limited to:**

11 **1. The proposed program's alignment with the mission and goals of the system;**

12 **2. The statewide or regional need the proposed program seeks to fill and how the**
13 **system, through the offering of this program, would meet this need;**

14 **3. Student demand for the proposed program;**

15 **4. Employer demand for the proposed program, including any potential industry**
16 **partners;**

17 **5. Utilization of existing institutional resources to deliver the proposed program**
18 **and how the program would complement existing program offerings and not**
19 **shift resources away from those existing programs;**

20 **6. A five (5) year budgetary analysis of the proposed program, including**
21 **program costs, funding sources projected to support the program, and the**
22 **amount of general fund appropriations needed for capital or operating**
23 **expenses;**

24 **7. The proposed program curriculum;**

25 **8. Any specialized accreditation or licensure requirements for the proposed**
26 **program and analysis of how those requirements would be met;**

27 **9. Admission and graduation requirements for the proposed program; and**

1 10. Administrative oversight to ensure the quality of the proposed program.

2 (b) A proposal approved by the KCTCS board shall be submitted to the council for
3 consideration in the system's budget request for the next biennial budget in
4 accordance with KRS 164.020(10) and 164.7915.

5 (5) The Council on Postsecondary Education shall review each proposal submitted in
6 accordance with subsection (4)(a) of this section and shall determine if the proposal
7 should be included in the biennial budget request pursuant to KRS 164.7915.

8 (6) If the new accredited program will not require dedicated general fund appropriations for
9 capital or operating expenses beyond the system's regular appropriations, the KCTCS
10 may proceed with the new program in accordance with KRS 164.020(15).

11 ➔Section 7. KRS 164.591 is amended to read as follows:

12 (1) If the president of the KCTCS determines that there is a necessity to create or expand
13 any college or campus requiring an appropriation by the General Assembly due to a new
14 accredited program or workforce initiative program proposed in accordance with
15 subsection (4)(a) of Section 6 of this Act, the president shall:

16 (a) Include a plan for review and approval by the KCTCS board of regents for
17 inclusion in the biennial budget request pursuant to KRS 164.7915; and

18 (b) The president shall not be authorized to move forward to create or expand any
19 college or campus under this subsection unless the General Assembly appropriates
20 funds and the council approves the proposal in accordance with subsection (5) of
21 Section 6 of this Act.

22 (2) No later than thirty (30) days after approval of the proposed plan by the council, the
23 KCTCS shall submit the proposed plan in its entirety and a report on the proposed plan
24 to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the Interim Joint Committees on
25 Education and Appropriations and Revenue or, when the General Assembly is in
26 session, to the Senate Standing Committees on Education and Appropriations and
27 Revenue and the House Standing Committees on Postsecondary Education and

1 Appropriations and Revenue, which includes the following as it relates to the proposed
 2 plan:

3 (a) An accounting of all necessary expenditures by fund source;

4 (b) A detailed accounting of all administrative expenses;

5 (c) A detailed accounting of all expenses not otherwise classified;

6 (d) Identification of any reduction in expenditures;

7 (e) An explanation of any new expenses or cost savings expected to be realized based
 8 on the plan; and

9 (f) An explanation of how the plan aligns with the operational plan of the KCTCS and
 10 the strategic plan of the council.

11 (3) The KCTCS shall submit documentation of capital and operating expenses associated
 12 with and specific to the plan with the next biennial budget request.

13 (4) Final approval of the proposed plan shall require the president of the KCTCS to obtain
 14 approval by the General Assembly by means of an act or joint resolution explicitly
 15 identifying and authorizing implementation of the plan.

16 (5) By October 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the KCTCS shall submit a report to the
 17 Legislative Research Commission for referral to the Interim Joint Committees on
 18 Education and Appropriations and Revenue providing the location, size of property,
 19 square footage of buildings, whether owned, leased, or rented, and the use of each
 20 property or building utilized by each college within the system, including all main
 21 campuses and satellite facilities, buildings, and properties as of January 1 of the year of
 22 submission

~~[A community college or extension of a community college shall be maintained
 23 in each of the following locations: Ashland, Carrollton, Cumberland, Elizabethtown,
 24 Glasgow, Henderson, Hopkinsville, Fayette County, Madisonville, Owensboro, Paducah,
 25 Prestonsburg, Somerset, Blackey Hazard, Jefferson County and Mason County. The
 26 headquarters of the administration of the Kentucky Community and Technical College
 27 System shall be maintained in Woodford County. Western Kentucky University may~~

1 ~~continue to operate a community college in Bowling Green. Additional extension centers~~
2 ~~may be established by the board of regents for the Kentucky Community and Technical~~
3 ~~College System with approval of the Council on Postsecondary Education. New~~
4 ~~community colleges shall require approval of the General Assembly]. "~~

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Senate Members

House Members

David Givens _____

Josh Bray _____

Aaron Reed _____

Adam Bowling _____

Amanda Mays Bledsoe _____

George Brown, Jr. _____

Gerald Neal _____

Steve Riley _____

The above-named members, in separate votes by house, all concur in the provisions of this report.

DATE

April 1, 2026

For Clerk's Use:

Adopted: _____

Repassage Vote: _____