

SENATE BILL No. 175

By Committee on Ways and Means

2-10

1 AN ACT concerning postsecondary education; relating to the exercise of
2 religious beliefs by student associations.

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

5 Section 1. As used in sections 1 through 3, and amendments thereto:

6 (a) "Benefit" means the following:

7 (1) Recognition;

8 (2) registration;

9 (3) the use of facilities of the postsecondary educational institution
10 for meetings or speaking purposes;

11 (4) the use of channels of communication of the postsecondary
12 educational institution; and

13 (5) funding sources that are otherwise available to other student
14 associations in the postsecondary educational institution.

15 (b) "Postsecondary educational institution" shall have the same
16 meaning as that term is defined in K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments
17 thereto.

18 (c) "Student" means any person who is enrolled on a full-time or part-
19 time basis in a postsecondary educational institution.

20 (d) "Religious student association" means an association of students
21 organized around shared religious beliefs.

22 Sec. 2. No postsecondary educational institution may take any action
23 or enforce any policy that would deny a religious student association any
24 benefit available to any other student association, or discriminate against a
25 religious student association with respect to such benefit, based on such
26 association's requirement that the leaders or members of such association:

27 (a) Adhere to the association's sincerely held religious beliefs;

28 (b) comply with the association's sincerely held religious beliefs;

29 (c) comply with the association's sincere religious standards of
30 conduct; or

31 (d) be committed to furthering the association's religious missions,
32 as such religious beliefs, observance requirements, standards of
33 conduct or missions are defined by the religious student association, or the
34 religion on which the association is based.

35 Sec. 3. Any student or religious student association aggrieved by a
36 violation of section 2, and amendments thereto, may bring a cause of

1 action against the postsecondary educational institution for such violation
2 and seek appropriate relief, including, but not limited to, monetary
3 damages. Any student or religious student association aggrieved by a
4 violation of section 2, and amendments thereto, also may assert such
5 violation as a defense or counterclaim in any civil or administrative
6 proceedings brought against such student or religious student association.

7 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
8 publication in the statute book.