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300 SW TENTH AVENUE ■ SUITE 24-E ■ TOPEKA, KS 66612 ■ (785) 296-2321

MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Judiciary
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 8, 2024
Subject: Bill Brief on HB 2676

HB 2676 adds additional conduct that constitutes the crime of assisting suicide and provides criminal penalties for violations.

The bill amends K.S.A. 21-5407, the crime of assisting suicide. Current law in subsection (a)(2)(A) creates a way to commit the crime by intentionally assisting another person to commit to attempt to commit suicide by providing the physical means by which another person commits to attempts to commit suicide. This bill would add that providing knowledge about the physical means by which another person commits or attempts to commit suicide would violate the crime.

The bill also adds three additional ways to commit the crime. The first is communicating with another person with the intent to exercise substantial control over such person using such person's fears, affections or sympathies to cause such person to commit or attempt to commit suicide. This would be a severity level 5, person felony. The second additional way to commit the crime would be knowingly exerting undue influence over another person with the intent to cause such person to commit or attempt to commit suicide, which would be a severity level 4, person felony. Finally, the third additional way to commit the crime would be intentionally coercing or encouraging another person to commit or attempt to commit suicide, which would also be a severity level 4, person felony.