

March 14, 2013

The Honorable Jeff King, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Statehouse, Room 341-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator King:

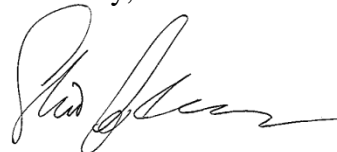
SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 200 by Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 200 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 200 would amend the definition of “meeting” in the Kansas Open Meetings Act to exclude any gathering at which discussion of the business of the body is not the central purpose of the meeting and at which no business or policy of the body is formulated. This would include social, educational, religious, ceremonial, or civic events and gatherings, among others.

According to the Office of the Attorney General, passage of SB 200 may increase the number of complaints filed with the Office concerning what constitutes the “central purpose” of a meeting, as well as the meaning of the terms or phrases used in the bill. Increased complaints could result in additional investigation expenses as well as an increase in requests by elected officials for legal representation from the Office to defend against complaints. The increase in the number of complaints or requests for representation cannot be predicted so it is not possible for the agency to estimate the costs associated with such services at this time. According to the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, passage of SB 200 would have no fiscal effect on the agency. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 200 is not reflected in *The FY 2014 Governor’s Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Steven J. Anderson, CPA, MBA
Director of the Budget

cc: Carol Williams, Governmental Ethics
Willie Prescott, Attorney General’s Office