

March 23, 2015

The Honorable John Barker, Chairperson
House Committee on Judiciary
Statehouse, Room 149-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Barker:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2344 by House Committee on Judiciary

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2344 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Under current law, any judge on the Kansas Court of Appeals who seeks to remain in office after their term has ended must declare candidacy and obtain a majority vote in the general election. HB 2344 would vacate the position if at least 30.0 percent of those voting in the retention election vote against the incumbent.

The Office of Judicial Administration indicates that none of the eight Court of Appeals judges standing for retention in 2014 received at least 70.0 percent of the vote, which means none would have been retained in office under the provisions of HB 2344. If HB 2344 were enacted, the Office indicates it would incur costs associated with the appointment of new judges such as printing new cards and stationary, and purchasing new robes. However, the Office indicates these costs would be offset with savings from salary costs incurred until the judges have been replaced. The Office indicates the costs associated with productivity lost from the appointment of judges with no appellate experience cannot be calculated.

Sincerely,



Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Mary Rinehart, Judiciary